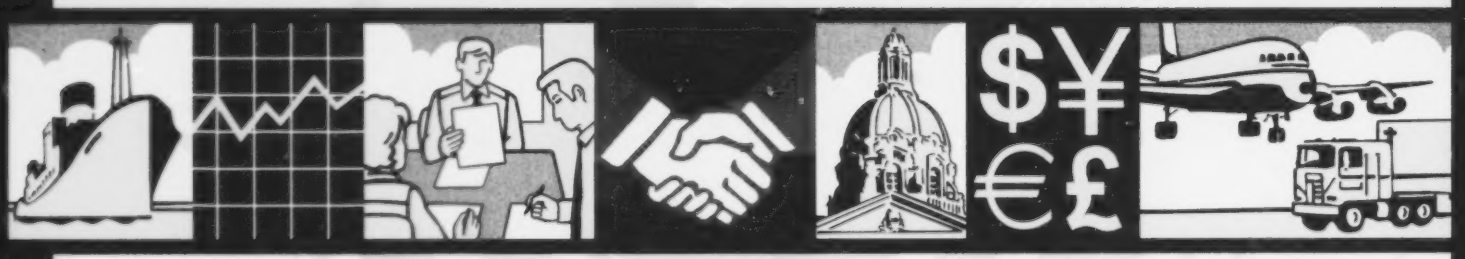
ANNUAL REPORT 2005-06



Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations

2007-00124

Table of Contents

Preface 2

Minister's Accountability Statement 3

Message from the Minister 4

Management's Responsibility for Reporting 5

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Vision 6
Mission 6
Core Businesses 6
Role of the Ministry 6
Key Factors that Influence Performance 6
Corporate Structure 7
Operational Overview 8
Summary of Key Activities 9

RESULTS ANALYSIS

Auditor General's Report 12
Expense by Core Business 13
Integrated Results Analysis 13
Results Analysis Goal 1 16
Results Analysis Goal 2 26
Results Analysis Goal 3 44

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Auditor's Report 56
Statement of Operations 57
Statement of Financial Position 58
Statement of Cash Flows 59
Notes to the Financial Statements 60
Schedules to the Financial Statements 65

Other Information

Appendix 1: 2005 IIR Client Satisfaction Survey Results 70
Appendix 2: 2005-06 Inventory of International and Intergovernmental Agreements 75
Appendix 3: Alphabetical List of Entities' Financial Statements in Ministry 2005-06 Annual Reports 84

Preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Government Accountability Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 24 Ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta released June 26, 2006 contains the Minister of Finance's accountability statement, the consolidated financial statements of the Province and a comparison of the actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's business plan, including the *Measuring Up* report.

This annual report of the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations contains the Minister's accountability statement, the audited financial statements of the Ministry and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the Ministry business plan.

This Ministry annual report also includes other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Government Accountability Act*, either as separate reports or as a part of the financial statements, to the extent that the Ministry has anything to report.

The Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations is a single entity and does not have regulated funds, provincial agencies or government controlled corporations as part of its operations.

Minister's Accountability Statement

The Ministry's Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2006, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at September 8, 2006 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Gary Mar

Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

Alberta is committed to being a good neighbour to the rest of Canada and to countries around the globe. The job of International and intergovernmental Relations is to help build and promote mutually supportive relationships. From hosting visiting delegations to supporting foreign missions to working with our colleague governments across Canada, this annual report details a world of achievements in 2005-06.

In its centennial year, Alberta had the privilege of chairing the Council of the Federation and hosting a highly successful meeting in Banff. We also chaired the Western Premiers' Conference in Lloydminster that brought western concerns to national attention. At a meeting of First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders, Alberta confirmed its commitment to the health, well-being and economic participation of Aboriginal people.

Seven of Alberta's 15 twinned provinces accepted Premier Klein's invitation to visit Alberta and experience our centennial celebrations. The Premier also promoted Alberta energy in Bavaria, Germany, renewed our twinning relationship in Mpumalanga, South Africa, and reviewed health records management in Ireland.

In its first full year of operation, the Alberta Office in Washington, D.C. significantly raised Alberta's profile among decision and policy makers in the head office of Alberta's largest trading partner. The Premier emphasized Alberta's growing importance to the U.S. as a safe, secure and reliable source of energy, and promoted Alberta's film and tourism industries, during visits to Colorado and New York.

On the trade front, Alberta successfully concluded negotiations on the B.C.-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, signed on April 28, 2006. We continued our efforts with the federal government to resolve the softwood lumber dispute with the United States. Previous Minister Ed Stelmach attended the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong to promote Alberta interests, especially in agriculture.

As Alberta continues to redefine its place in a dynamic Canadian confederation and a changing world, we will build on the achievements of 2005-06. I invite you to visit the Ministry website at www.iir.gov.ab.ca to see how the foundations laid or strengthened in 2005-06 are being developed into new opportunities.

Gary G. Mar, Q.C.

Minister of International and
Intergovernmental Relations
M.L.A. Calgary-Mackay

The Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations is a single entity and does not have regulated funds, provincial agencies or government entities as part of its operations.

The executives within the Ministry have the primary responsibility to ensure the Ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and business plans, annual report, quarterly reports and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements and performance results for the Ministry rests with the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the Ministry's annual report, including financial statements and performance results. The financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the government's stated accounting policies.

As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I establish and maintain the Ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The Ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give consideration to costs, benefits and risks that are designed to:

- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money;
- provide information to manage and report on performance;
- safeguard the assets and properties of the Province under Ministry administration;
- provide Executive Council, Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations any information needed to fulfill their responsibilities; and
- facilitate preparation of Ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Government Accountability Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the Ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executive of the individual sections within the Ministry.

Gerry Bourdeau

Deputy Minister of International and
Intergovernmental Relations

Date

VISION

A strong Alberta, active in an open world and in a prosperous, united Canada.

MISSION

To lead development of government-wide strategies and policies for Alberta's relations with international governments and organizations and with federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada.

CORE BUSINESSES

The Ministry's core businesses are:

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations:
To promote the interests of, and secure benefits for, Alberta as an equal partner in a strengthened, united Canada.

International Relations:
To promote the interests of, and secure benefits for, Alberta from strengthened international relations.

Trade Policy:
To promote the interests of, and secure benefits for, Alberta from greater trade and investment liberalization, internationally and domestically.

The operational structure of the Ministry is aligned to support these core businesses.

ROLE OF THE MINISTRY

Sound government-to-government relationships are key to securing Alberta's future well-being and to achieving the Ministry vision of providing leadership in the management of Alberta's international and intergovernmental relationships.

To fulfill this leadership role, it is essential to coordinate Alberta's strategies. Development and implementation of strategies require close cooperation with other Alberta ministries as well as public and private organizations.

Key services provided by the Ministry are:

- Advancing Alberta's interests through intergovernmental negotiations and discussions.
- Coordinating Alberta's strategies relating to international and intergovernmental relations.
- Providing strategic advice and policy analysis to Alberta ministries and other clients.
- Obtaining, disseminating and analyzing information for Alberta ministries and other clients.

KEY FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PERFORMANCE

The Ministry's goals are focused on the attainment of long term objectives – ensuring that Alberta pursues an effective strategy to advance Alberta's interests in conducting and coordinating intergovernmental negotiations; building Alberta's linkages and relationships with other countries; and improving the domestic and international environment in which Alberta companies do business.

The Ministry's success frequently depends on many factors, such as the state of the economy, relations between governments, relations among Alberta government ministries, and relations with the private sector. As a result, the Ministry's goals are often attained over the long term rather than over the short term, and are often best measured in qualitative ways. These factors influence the nature and scope of the Ministry's measures.

CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Minister Mar
Contact Information

MAIL
320 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

PHONE
1-780-427-2585

FACSIMILE
1-780-422-9023

Ministry
Contact Information

MAIL
12th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G8

PHONE
1-780-422-1510

FACSIMILE
1-780-423-6654

EMAIL
feedback@inter.gov.ab.ca

WEBSITE
www.ir.gov.ab.ca

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Canadian Intergovernmental Relations Section

Works with other Alberta ministries to coordinate Alberta's intergovernmental activities with the federal government and other provincial and territorial governments to ensure that Alberta's interests are reflected in the Canadian federation. This section of the Ministry is composed of four teams working under the direction of an Assistant Deputy Minister.

The International Relations Section

Works with other Alberta government ministries to advance Alberta's strategic international interests, and develop and advance Alberta's international relationships. This section of the Ministry is composed of three teams working under the direction of an Assistant Deputy Minister.

The Trade Policy Section

Deals with domestic and international trade and investment agreements, negotiations and disputes affecting Albertans. It pursues policies that meet Alberta's objectives of reducing trade and investment barriers. This section of the Ministry is composed of four teams working under the direction of Alberta's Trade Representative.

The Corporate Services Section

Provides a variety of services to assist other sections of the Ministry in achieving their goals.

Through shared services arrangements with the ministries of Education, and Restructuring and Government Efficiency, the section coordinates provision of:

- Financial services
- Human resource services
- Information technology services
- Administrative services

Financial, information technology and administrative services of this section also support the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The Corporate Communications Section

Provides a wide range of services to the Ministry, including writing support, strategic communications planning and issues management, media monitoring and media relations, advertising and printing services, responding to public inquiries, and coordination of the Internet home page at www.iir.gov.ab.ca. Staff members in this section are deployed to work in the Ministry by the Public Affairs Bureau.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: Promoting the interests of, and securing benefits for, Alberta as an equal partner in a strengthened, united Canada

Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders

First Ministers met with Aboriginal leaders from the five national organizations to discuss Aboriginal issues. The meeting focused on closing the socio-economic and living standards gap between Aboriginal and other Canadians over the next 10 years. The final communiqué from the meeting reflects Alberta's priority of continuing to work with Alberta First Nations, Métis, and non-status groups and organizations to ensure that efforts to enhance the health, well-being and economic participation of Aboriginal people will result in better outcomes at the local level. Alberta will continue building upon these relationships as we move forward in our commitment to close the gap in the quality of life and living standards of Aboriginal people and other Albertans.

Council of the Federation

Alberta served as Chair of the Council of the Federation during 2005-06. As Chair, Alberta hosted the 2005 Council of the Federation annual summer meeting in Banff. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates, including Premiers, Ministers, officials, their families and media. At the highly successful Banff meeting, Premiers agreed to an ambitious agenda of initiatives for the Council of the Federation in the areas of transportation, post-secondary education and skills training, energy and crystal methamphetamine. During the year, the Council also established an Advisory Panel on Fiscal Imbalance to review and make recommendations on how to address the fiscal imbalance in Canada.

Western Premiers' Conference

Alberta had the privilege of hosting the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference in Lloydminster, Alberta. Western Premiers discussed several key issues of concern to western Canadians, including BSE, control of the mountain pine beetle, energy, transportation, post-secondary education and skills training, Canada-U.S. relations, emerging markets and crystal methamphetamine. Western Premiers successfully elevated many of these key issues to the national spotlight through the Council of the Federation.

Senate Reform Advisory Committee

The Ministry provided support for the Senate Reform Advisory Committee, which was comprised of Alberta's four elected Senate nominees. The advisory committee travelled across the country to meet with provincial and territorial representatives to discuss issues and opportunities in relation to Senate reform. The advisory committee submitted a report to Premier Klein on its consultations, and that report provided the foundation for a discussion among Premiers at the Summer 2005 Council of the Federation meeting in Banff. At that meeting, Premiers reiterated their concern that the current appointment processes for key national institutions, including the Senate and the Supreme Court of Canada, do not reflect the federal nature of Canada. Premiers also expressed their belief that the federal government must show leadership on these issues and has an obligation to engage in a discussion with provincial and territorial governments on these important issues.

GOAL 2: Promoting the interests of, and securing benefits for, Alberta from strengthened international relations

Alberta Office in Washington, D.C.

In its first full year of operation, the Alberta Office in Washington, D.C., (AWO) has significantly raised Alberta's profile in the U.S. by promoting Alberta's energy sector, garnering major U.S. media coverage and facilitating meetings with high level U.S. policy makers. The AWO also provided leadership to the planning and execution of Alberta's participation at the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Premier's Mission to Colorado and New York

During the June mission to Colorado and New York, Premier Klein participated in the Western Governors' Association annual meeting, which provided an opportunity to discuss Canada-U.S. relations and to raise awareness among governors of issues and priorities important to western provinces. In New York, Premier Klein focused on marketing Alberta at meetings and events with Wall Street investors, analysts and business media. The Premier emphasized Alberta's growing importance to the U.S. as a safe, secure and reliable source of energy. Alberta's film and tourism industries also were promoted.

Centennial Celebrations and Alberta's Special Relationships

Delegations from seven of Alberta's special relationship provinces and states (Heilongjiang, Hokkaido, Khanty-Mansi, Lviv, Montana, Mpumalanga, and Saxony) accepted Premier Klein's invitation to visit Alberta in August to take part in a five-day program celebrating the province's centennial. In addition to the five-day program, the visit also provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations. Premier Klein and Governor Zhang renewed the Alberta-Heilongjiang twinning agreement, and Premier Klein and Governor Olynyk signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a new sister province relationship between Alberta and Lviv, Ukraine.

Premier's Mission to Germany, South Africa and Ireland

During the September mission to Germany, South Africa and Ireland, Premier Klein discussed opportunities to further Alberta-Germany commercial ties, promoted Alberta's energy industry at the World Petroleum Congress, renewed the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning agreement, and reviewed the health records management system in Ireland with a view to assessing best practices for Alberta.

GOAL 3: Promoting the interests of and securing benefits for Alberta from greater trade and investment liberalization, both internationally and domestically

Domestic Trade

Following the direction of the joint Alberta-B.C. Cabinet, and following extensive consultations with other departments, Alberta successfully concluded negotiations on the British Columbia-Alberta *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* (TILMA). This agreement has since been finalized and was signed at the Alberta-B.C. joint Cabinet session held in April 2006.

In response to the Council of the Federation direction to improve the operation of the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT), Alberta continued to lead negotiations on the completion of the energy chapter, addressed gaps in the AIT, and recommended improvements regarding the AIT's dispute settlement mechanism. All of Alberta's proposals were well received and will be considered either for incorporation into the AIT, or as models for improving the AIT, at future meetings of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT).

Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Dispute

Alberta continued in its efforts to resolve the softwood lumber dispute. The Government of Alberta worked with its legal counsel to defend provincial programs and to ensure that Alberta positions were reflected in legal challenges made by Canada in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In August 2005, an Extraordinary Challenge Committee established under the NAFTA upheld the decision of a NAFTA dispute resolution panel that compelled the U.S. International Trade Commission to reverse its finding that imports of Canadian softwood lumber posed a threat of "material injury" to U.S. producers. This should have led to the revocation of the U.S. countervailing and anti-dumping duty orders, and a refund of all duties collected. The U.S. unwillingness to abide by the NAFTA decision resulted in a suspension of Canada-U.S. discussions. Near the end of the reporting period, efforts resumed to find a basis for the resumption of discussions between Canada and the U.S.

World Trade Organization Negotiations

Alberta attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in December 2005, as part of the Canadian delegation. At the ministerial conference, the Minister was able to meet with federal ministers, negotiators and delegations from other WTO members, and to promote Alberta priority issues (agriculture, trade remedy rules, and market access for services and industrial products). The outcome of the ministerial conference was an agreement to strive for agreement on the means (or "modalities") to conclude the WTO Doha Round of trade liberalization negotiations by July 2006.

Alberta participated in a federal/provincial/territorial meeting of trade ministers prior to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference to outline its priorities in these negotiations directly with the federal ministers.

AUDITOR GENERAL *Alberta*

Report of the Auditor General on the Results of Applying Specified Auditing Procedures to Performance Measures

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the performance results included in the *Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Affair's 2005-06 Annual Report*. My responsibility is to carry out the following specified auditing procedures on performance measures in the annual report. I verified:

Completeness

1. Performance measures and targets matched those included in Budget 2005. Actual results are presented for all performance measures.

Reliability

2. Information in reports from external organizations, such as Statistics Canada, matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results.
3. Information in reports that originated in the Ministry matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results. In addition, I tested the processes the Ministry used to complete the results.

Comparability and Understandability

4. Actual results are presented clearly and consistently with the stated methodology and are presented on the same basis as targets and prior years' information.

I found no exceptions when I performed these procedures.

As my examination was limited to these procedures, I do not express an opinion on whether the set of measures is relevant and sufficient to assess the performance of the Ministry in achieving its goals.

Fred J. Dunn FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
August 11, 2006

EXPENSES BY CORE BUSINESS

The Ministry's 2005-06 expenses by Core Business (thousands of dollars) are identified in the table below.

Core Business	2005-06 Budget	2005-06 Actual	2004-05 Actual
Canadian Intergovernmental Relations	$ 4,261	$ 3,873	$ 2,766
International Relations	$ 4,172	$ 4,269	$ 3,821
Trade Policy	$ 1,646	$ 1,834	$ 1,676
Total Ministry Expense	$ 10,079	$ 9,976	$ 8,263

INTEGRATED RESULTS ANALYSIS

The Ministry's financial performance was within budget targets for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006.

Increases in Ministry expenses in 2005-06 over the previous fiscal year can be attributed to three main areas; intergovernmental meetings; the Alberta Office in Washington; and trade negotiations. Each of these areas corresponds to a Ministry Core Business and Business Plan goal.

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations

One-time funding of $215,000 was provided for Alberta to host the Western Premier's Conference in Lloydminster in May 2005. In addition, one-time funding of $695,000 was provided for Alberta to host the Council of the Federation meeting in Banff in August 2005. The actual cost to Albertan's for these events was $138,000 and $678,000, respectively.

The Canadian Intergovernmental Relations Core Business supports Goal 1 of the Ministry Business Plan. Significant activities undertaken in 2005-06 include Alberta's assumption of the chair of both the Premiers' Council of the Federation and the Western Premiers' Conference. As chair, Alberta was in a strong position to influence the intergovernmental agenda and to ensure that the main priorities identified by Premiers are consistent with Alberta's intergovernmental priorities. The Premiers' meetings hosted by Alberta were also excellent opportunities to showcase the province in its centennial year.

Other activities included working with Alberta ministries to develop coordinated and consistent government-wide strategies that advance Alberta's interests, developing strategies and policy options in conjunction with Alberta ministries with respect to key intergovernmental policy issues, and assisting Alberta ministries in the development of intergovernmental agreements.

The ongoing activities of the Canadian Intergovernmental Relations Core Business also support progress on Strategic Priority 1 of the Ministry Business Plan. Achievements on Strategic Priority 1 are chronicled over several years to demonstrate the long term nature of the Ministry's strategic priorities.

Client satisfaction with services provided by the Canadian Intergovernmental Relations Section exceeded the Ministry's target. The Ministry met its target of reporting 100 per cent of reports/narrative records from First Ministers' or Premiers' intergovernmental meetings in the annual report.

International Relations

The International Relations Core Business supports Goal 2 of the Ministry Business Plan. An increase in funding of $380,000 annually was approved to support the operational needs of the Alberta Office in Washington, which in 2005-06 was in its first full year of operations. Among the many benefits of the Alberta Office in Washington, the office played a significant role in raising Alberta's profile as a leading supplier of secure energy to the U.S.

Other initiatives undertaken in 2005-06 included partnering with Alberta Community Development to prepare for Alberta's participation in the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. This marks the first time a Canadian jurisdiction has been featured in the 40-year history of the festival. Alberta used the platform created by the festival to stage a wide variety of other events in Washington to profile the province's strong economic, academic and cultural relationships with the U.S.

The International Relations Section also was involved in the planning and coordination of a number of the Premier's international missions, including the U.S., Europe and South Africa. As well, the International Relations Section was responsible for the planning and delivery of a program for seven delegations from Alberta's sister provinces that visited as part of Alberta's centennial celebrations, two missions to mark the 25th anniversary of Alberta's twinning with Hokkaido, Japan, and one mission to mark the 30th anniversary of twinning with Gangwon, Korea. These activities provided an opportunity to advance Alberta's strategic international interests and to further develop Alberta's international relationships.

The ongoing activities of the International Relations Core Business also support progress on Strategic Priority 2 of the Ministry Business Plan. Some of the ongoing activities include working with Alberta ministries to provide leadership and coordination for ministerial missions, advising Alberta ministries on the development of international government-to-government agreements, and coordinating translation and interpretation services for all ministries. Achievements on Strategic Priority 2 are chronicled over several years to demonstrate the long term nature of the Ministry's strategic priorities.

Client satisfaction with services provided by the International Relations Section exceeded the Ministry's target. The Ministry met its target of achieving 75 significant events/opportunities that advance Alberta's interests through the work of the Alberta Office in Washington. Twenty-five per cent of international mission expense reports for the Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations were posted on the Ministry's website within two months of the mission's conclusion. The Ministry met its target of reporting 100 per cent of reports/narrative records from the Premier's international missions, transboundary meetings and newsletters produced by the International Governance Office and the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations.

Trade Policy

Additional ongoing funding of $150,000 was provided to continue Alberta's involvement in the World Trade Organization (WTO) multilateral trade liberalization negotiations (the Doha Development Agenda). These negotiations are important to the economic health of Alberta, especially in our agricultural community. Resources were also applied to Alberta's successful challenge of Quebec's coloured margarine regulations under the dispute resolution proceedings of the *Agreement on Internal Trade*, and to the preparatory negotiations for the British Columbia-Alberta *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* (TILMA).

These activities took place under Goal 3 of the Ministry Business Plan, which calls on the Ministry to promote the interests of, and secure benefits for, Alberta from greater trade and investment liberalization, internationally and domestically. These activities were also undertaken in the context of Strategic Priorities 3 and 4 of the Ministry business plan. These long term priorities include: participating in international negotiations to advance Alberta's interests with important trading partners; expanding Canadian internal trade liberalization that promotes the free flow of goods, services, capital and labour across Canada; and building upon and enhancing the benefits from the *Agreement on Internal Trade* with like-minded Canadian jurisdictions.

Client satisfaction with services provided by the Trade Policy Section exceeded the Ministry's target. The Ministry met its target of reporting 100 per cent of reports/narrative records from international and domestic trade policy meetings in the annual report.

CORE BUSINESS 1 –
Canadian Intergovernmental Relations

GOAL 1:

PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF, AND SECURING BENEFITS FOR, ALBERTA AS AN EQUAL PARTNER IN A STRENGTHENED, UNITED CANADA.

Premiers' Conferences

In addition to attending a number of conferences throughout the year, Alberta also had the privilege of hosting both the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference and the 2005 Council of the Federation Annual Meeting.

Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders

- November 24-25, 2005 - Kelowna, British Columbia

Council of the Federation

- August 10-12, 2005 - Banff, Alberta

Council of the Federation Summit on Post-Secondary Education and Skills

- February 23-24, 2006 - Ottawa, Ontario

Meeting of Premiers and Aboriginal Leaders

- August 10, 2005 – Calgary, Alberta

Western Premiers' Conference

- May 4-6, 2005 – Lloydminster, Alberta

Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders

First Ministers met with Aboriginal leaders on November 24-25, 2005, in Kelowna, British Columbia to discuss Aboriginal issues. The meeting was attended by the Prime Minister and the Premiers of each province and territory, as well as the five leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations: Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Métis National Council, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, and Native Women's Association of Canada.

Chief Sandford Big Plume of the Tsuu T'ina First Nation, representing Alberta Treaty Areas 6, 7 and 8, and Alden Armstrong, President of the Métis Settlements General Council, attended the First Ministers' Meeting as members of the Alberta delegation. Audrey Poitras, President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, attended as a member of the Métis National Council's delegation.

Education, health, housing, economic opportunities and relationships were on the meeting agenda. Alberta supports the overall goal of closing the socio-economic and living standards gap between Aboriginal and other Canadians over the next 10 years.

Along with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Ministry coordinated Alberta's policy position and planning for the special meeting. The Ministry will continue to work closely with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and with Alberta First Nations, Métis, and non-status groups and organizations to ensure that commitments made at the meeting result in better outcomes for Aboriginal people at the local level.

Council of the Federation

The Council of the Federation's objectives are to:

- Promote interprovincial/territorial cooperation and closer ties among members of the Council, to ultimately strengthen Canada;
- Foster meaningful relations between governments based on respect for the Constitution and recognition of the diversity within the federation;
- Show leadership on issues important to all Canadians.

The Council continues to be effective in advancing Alberta's issues within the Canadian federation. During 2005-06, Alberta continued to lead or co-lead on continuing Council work in the areas of BSE, appointments to national institutions, and the provincial/territorial role in international trade negotiations, agreements and fora.

Alberta's most significant role, however, was in its role as Chair of the Council of the Federation. As Chair, Alberta hosted a highly successful annual summer meeting of the Council of the Federation at Banff, Alberta, attended by over 300 delegates, including Premiers and their families, officials and their families, and media. The Ministry worked closely with a Volunteer Organizing Committee, which coordinated the work of almost 100 volunteers on the ground. Their work was instrumental in making the conference a great success.

Since its inception in December 2003, the Council of the Federation has brought about increased communication, cooperation and intergovernmental activity between provinces and territories.

At the Council's summer meeting in Banff, Premiers agreed to an ambitious agenda of initiatives. These included:

- the development of a national transportation strategy;
- a pan-Canadian strategy for post-secondary education and skills training;
- the establishment of a Council Committee on Energy; and
- work to combat crystal methamphetamine and other drug addictions, including sponsoring a national conference and undertaking a national awareness campaign.

At Banff, Premiers also discussed international trade and emerging markets, the need for a national pharmaceutical strategy, and softwood lumber. They were updated on the Council's ongoing work in: domestic trade flows, BSE, appointments to national institutions, the green economy, environmental assessment, and a provincial-territorial role in international trade negotiations, agreements and fora. Premiers also discussed improving Canada-U.S. relations, and hosted U.S. Ambassador to Canada David H. Wilkins to share perspectives and priorities.

Progress was made quickly on a number of Council initiatives agreed to at Banff. On December 8, 2005, the Council released its National Transportation Strategy, which identifies a strategic transportation network for Canada.

The Council also held a Summit on Post-Secondary Education and Skills to gather input from stakeholders across the country towards the development of a pan-Canadian strategy on post-secondary education and skills training. The Council also sponsored a national conference on January 30-February 1, 2006, in Saskatoon on preventing and treating drug addictions, including crystal methamphetamine.

The Council of the Federation also took steps this year to bring attention to the fiscal imbalance in Canada. On May 27, 2005, the Council established its Advisory Panel on Fiscal Imbalance to look at the underlying causes of fiscal imbalance and make recommendations on how to address it. The advisory panel submitted its final report to Premiers at the end of March 2006.

In order to support the work of the Council, the Ministry worked closely with other ministries in preparing for meetings and conferences, and providing briefing information for the Premier. The Ministry worked to support the Premier at conferences to help ensure that Alberta's priorities are not only met, but remain at the forefront of the Council's agenda. The Ministry has been instrumental in ensuring that Alberta is an active participant in the Council.

Intergovernmental Agreements

The Ministry assisted other provincial government ministries in negotiating and finalizing a number of intergovernmental agreements over the past year. A list of agreements concluded in 2005-06 is shown in Appendix 2. Based on the results of a joint Ministry-Office of the Auditor General review of the processes for handling intergovernmental agreements conducted in 2002-03, the Ministry successfully implemented its work plan to update its management of intergovernmental agreements. This included legislative changes that were made to strengthen the Ministry's intergovernmental agreement approval processes.

Municipalities and Infrastructure

The Ministry continued to work closely with Infrastructure and Transportation to secure federal support for the development of infrastructure throughout the province. Together with all provinces and territories, Alberta advocated strongly for major new infrastructure funding from the federal government more in line with the amount of revenue the federal government collects from its fuel tax. This led towards the creation of a bilateral agreement with the federal government that provides increased federal funding for municipal infrastructure under the federal New Deal for Cities and Communities.

As the federal government wants to develop new partnerships with municipalities through the New Deal, and as municipalities are an area of provincial jurisdiction, the Ministry worked with Infrastructure and Transportation, and Municipal Affairs to develop frameworks for positive federal relationships with Alberta and its municipalities. The Ministry assisted Infrastructure and Transportation in the drafting of bilateral agreements and continues to provide advice to Municipal Affairs and other ministries on issues related to federal involvement with municipal governments.

Alberta also joined other western provinces in developing a western transportation strategy to guide cooperative intergovernmental efforts in the area of infrastructure. This strategy offers the federal government the opportunity to invest a greater portion of fuel taxes in western infrastructure as a matter of national priority. This strategy was later expanded to the national level and endorsed by the Council of the Federation. The Ministry provided advice and assistance to Infrastructure and Transportation to establish agreements with B.C. that would increase cooperation and efficiency of management of border transportation issues, such as joint weigh scales and traveler information messaging.

Securities

Chaired by Alberta's Minister of Finance, provincial ministers responsible for securities regulation continued to work toward a better securities regulation system for Canada. In September 2005, rule and policy changes came into effect in provinces and territories (with the exception of Ontario) implementing the passport system of regulation. The passport system gives market participants access to capital markets in multiple jurisdictions by dealing with the regulator and the law of its principal jurisdiction. The system allows issuers and registrants to deal only with the regulator in their principal jurisdiction and exempts them from certain legal requirements in other provinces and territories. The Ministry provided advice and assistance, as Finance continues provincial leadership in regulatory reform.

Climate Change

In December 2002, the federal government decided to proceed with ratification of the Kyoto Protocol without the agreement of provincial governments. With Russia's ratification, the agreement came into force in February 2005. The Ministry has worked to limit the impacts of the Kyoto Protocol on areas of provincial jurisdiction and to ensure federal recognition of the need to limit the long term risks to investors and industry. The Ministry assisted Environment in the process of ensuring federal cooperation in Alberta's ongoing activities to implement an action plan on climate change and provided advice on intergovernmental issues related to the Kyoto Protocol.

Agricultural Policy Framework

The Ministry continued to work with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and other ministries in collaborating with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to implement the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF). Revisions to the business risk management program were discussed to help farmers and others in agriculture deal more effectively with the vagaries of agricultural business operations and low commodity prices. The Ministry participated in a federal/provincial APF Advisory Committee and provided independent advice and assistance to Agriculture, Food and Rural Development to ensure that federal agricultural policies and programs reflect Alberta's strategic interests and priorities. The Ministry is also providing intergovernmental advice on the development and negotiation of a renewed APF by summer 2007.

Marketing Choice for Wheat and Barley Producers

Alberta continued to push for marketing choice for its wheat and barley producers. Amongst producer groups, farmers should have the option to sell their grain through either the Canadian Wheat Board or privately. The Ministry continued to work with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development to advocate for Alberta's position.

Security

Alberta continues to monitor world events and will take the necessary steps to protect Albertans, in cooperation with federal and municipal authorities. Under Alberta's Security Task Force, chaired by the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Alberta continues an ongoing review of security issues and put solid response plans in place.

MLA Committee on Strengthening Alberta's Role in Confederation

On November 15, 2003, Premier Klein appointed a nine-member MLA Committee on Strengthening Alberta's Role in Confederation. The committee was established to solicit Albertans' views about the status of federal/provincial relations, and how the relationship might be improved or changed. The committee also heard Albertans' ideas about how to strengthen Alberta's position within the Canadian federation. The committee's final report, released in August 2004, made 26 recommendations concerning a variety of federal-provincial issues, including Senate reform, health care, federal transfer payments and provincial/municipal relations. Alberta released its response to the committee's report on October 19, 2004, in which the government accepted all 26 recommendations.

During 2005-06, the Ministry continued to work with other Alberta ministries to pursue appropriate follow-up actions to the committee's report and recommendations.

Senate Reform and Senate Nominee Election

Alberta remains committed to pursuing meaningful Senate reform. The Ministry continues to lead the government's efforts towards achieving comprehensive constitutional reform of the Senate of Canada, while in the interim, exploring and advocating non-constitutional options to democratize the Senate.

The Ministry provided support for the Senate Reform Advisory Committee, which was comprised of Alberta's four elected Senate nominees. In May and June 2005, the advisory committee travelled across the country to meet with provincial and territorial representatives to discuss issues and opportunities in relation to Senate reform. The advisory committee submitted a report to Premier Klein on its consultations, and that report provided the foundation for a discussion among Premiers at the Summer 2005 Council of the Federation meeting in Banff. At that meeting, Premiers reiterated their concern that the current appointment processes for key national institutions, including the Senate and the Supreme Court of Canada, do not reflect the federal nature of Canada. Premiers also expressed their belief that the federal government must show leadership and has an obligation to engage in a discussion with provincial and territorial governments on these important issues.

Child Care Negotiations

Through 2005, Alberta continued to negotiate with the federal government on a new child care agreement that would implement the federal Liberal government's 2004 election promises concerning child care. The Ministry worked closely with Children's Services during the negotiations. Although Alberta signed an Agreement in Principle on child care, this work came to a halt during the 2005 federal election. Following the election, the new federal Conservative government cancelled the Liberal's approach to child care. The Ministry continues to work with Children's Services as the new federal government's Universal Child Care Plan is implemented.

Regulatory Gap

Increasingly, the lack of regulatory schemes for developments on reserve lands is adversely affecting the economic well-being of Aboriginal peoples. The Ministry assisted and provided advice to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in its analysis of new federal legislation (*First Nation Oil and Gas Money Management Act* and the *First Nation Commercial and Industrial Development Act*). With the passage of the new federal legislation, the Ministry now is providing advice on possible federal regulations, and on development of potential agreements to implement federal regulations.

PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Successfully Conducting, Coordinating and Participating in Intergovernmental Negotiations and Discussions to Advance Alberta's Interests in Confederation

The focus of intergovernmental initiatives this past year was on three non-constitutional priorities identified by Premier Klein:

1. Regular annual First Ministers' Meetings, with agendas that are jointly determined between Premiers and the Prime Minister, and standing items on health, trade, finance, justice and the economy;
2. A formalized provincial role in international agreements related to areas of provincial jurisdiction; and
3. Consultations with provinces on federal appointments, including Senate appointments, that affect their jurisdictions.

The Ministry continued to advance these priorities throughout the year when working with other provinces (e.g. Western Premiers' Conference, Council of the Federation meetings, and more).

2003-04

June 2003
Western Premiers' Conference: Future First Ministers' meetings discussed. The Prime Minister later agreed to hold annual meetings of First Ministers.

January 2004
First Ministers Meeting: Prime Minister committed to working with provinces to develop a framework for a provincial role in international agreements. Alberta and New Brunswick, representing provinces/territories, involved in discussions with federal minister of intergovernmental relations.

Council of the Federation Meeting: Premiers granted Alberta and New Brunswick a mandate to develop a position on a provincial role in federal appointments. Status report will be presented at the Council of the Federation meeting in July 2006.

2004-05

May 2004
Alberta/British Columbia Joint Cabinet Meeting: Five agreements were concluded (re: mutual assistance during public health emergencies or natural disasters; harmonized oil/gas regulations; environmental cooperation and harmonization; trade, investment and labour mobility; e-learning). Two agreements were signed before the meeting (re: mountain park traveller information; oil and gas sector skills training).

July 2004
Western Premiers' Conference: Premiers discussed possible action on a variety of issues including health care, BSE, securities, strengthening the federation and energy. Premiers drafted an open letter to the Prime Minister regarding the devolution of federal control over northern lands to the territories.

Meeting of Premiers and Aboriginal Leaders: Premiers met with national Aboriginal leaders to discuss Aboriginal health issues in anticipation of the September 2004 First Ministers' Meeting on Health Care.

Council of the Federation: Premiers discussed health care reform efforts aimed at improving health care services and outcomes. Premiers also discussed other issues including improving Canada-U.S. relations, domestic trade flows, BSE, literacy and appointments to national institutions.

September 2004
Council of the Federation: Possible reforms to the health care system were discussed.

Special Meeting of First Ministers and Aboriginal Leaders: First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders agreed on the need for an action plan to improve health services for all Aboriginal peoples, and adopted specific measures to close the gap between the health status of Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians.

First Ministers' Meeting on Health: First Ministers agreed on a 10-year, $41 billion plan to strengthen health care across the country.

October 2004
Council of the Federation: Possible equalization funding arrangement was discussed.

First Ministers' Meeting on Equalization: First Ministers agreed on a $33 billion, 10-year equalization deal that will increase support to the provinces and territories under the Equalization and Territorial Financing Formula (TFF).

March 2005
Alberta/British Columbia Joint Cabinet Meeting: The meeting resulted in initiatives and funding to mitigate mountain pine beetle infestation, and expand export gateways to Asia.

2005-06

May 2005
Western Premiers' Conference: Premiers agreed to prepare a comprehensive transportation strategy, to meet with western governors to advance Canada-U.S. relations, to build ties with emerging trade markets and to develop a national training strategy to address the issue of labour shortages. The Premiers also agreed to push the federal government to increase penalties for those trafficking in crystal meth.

August 2005
Meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Leaders: Premiers met with National Aboriginal Leaders in advance of the fall meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders. The National Aboriginal Leaders provided Premiers with an overview of the issues facing their peoples.

Council of the Federation: Premiers unveiled their comprehensive strategies to enhance transportation and infrastructure development, energy, trade, post-secondary education, prevention and treatment of drug addiction, and to address the fiscal imbalance. Premiers also reviewed progress and set out next steps for continued work on several key initiatives. This included national institutions, international negotiations, domestic trade flows, BSE, green economy, environmental assessment, and Alberta reported on its Senate nominee advisory committee's consultations with provincial and territorial governments for pursuing how future Senate appointments are made.

November 2005
Council of the Federation: Premiers discussed the upcoming First Ministers' Meeting with National Aboriginal Leaders, received an overview of the National Transportation Strategy, and received an update from Premiers Charest and McGuinty on the post-secondary education and skills training initiative.

Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders: First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders developed a 10-year action plan to close the gap in living standards between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians.

February 2006
Council of the Federation Meeting with the Prime Minister: This was an informal meeting to provide Premiers an early opportunity to establish a positive working relationship with the Prime Minister. First Ministers discussed their respective priorities and how they can work together to improve the lives of Canadians.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR GOAL 1

The Ministry has two performance measures for Goal 1 for 2005-06. The Client Satisfaction measure is intended to assess client satisfaction with services provided by the Canadian Intergovernmental Relations Section. Narrative records and reports from First Ministers' and Premiers' intergovernmental meetings describe further progress to Goal 1.

1.a Client Satisfaction

A key element of the Ministry's success is the quality of relationships built with clients and partners, including other Alberta government ministries, other Canadian provincial and territorial governments and the private sector. To help advance Alberta's interests, these relationships must be developed and fostered over the long term. The Ministry's biennial client satisfaction survey is a key instrument for assessing the quality and effectiveness of these relationships. The last survey was conducted in January 2005. The next survey will be conducted in January 2007.

Clients are asked to rate service performance on a five-point scale, ranging from 1=very dissatisfied to 5=very satisfied.

The Ministry's target in 2005, and again in 2007, is to achieve a high satisfaction rating of 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale from the Ministry's key clients. In 2005, the Ministry exceeded its target with a 4.2 client satisfaction rating for services provided by Canadian Intergovernmental Relations.

Client satisfaction ratings are shown below. Results for all areas polled in the 2005 client satisfaction survey are detailed in Appendix 1. Comparisons to previous years' results are also shown.

Results:

GOAL 1: Client satisfaction with services provided by Canadian Intergovernmental Relations

4.1	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.0

Data Source: 2005 Ipsos client satisfaction survey results

The Ministry finds the semi-annual client survey useful in evaluating the satisfaction of key clients, both within and outside the Alberta government. While very positive results are evident throughout each of the six surveys completed to date, there are minor variations that generate internal review. Staff makes use of the information and feedback to consider their interaction with clients for the future.

1.b Narrative Records for Canadian Intergovernmental Relations

The Ministry documents its performance on key initiatives through publicly released reports or communiqués issued at the conclusion of major conferences led by the Premier or Minister. Communiqués from major intergovernmental meetings reflect the discussion and decisions made by Premiers. These reports assess how the province achieved its objectives.

The Ministry met its target of reporting 100 per cent of reports/narrative records from First Ministers' or Premiers' intergovernmental meetings.

Listed below are the narrative records for Goal 1:

Western Premiers' Conference (Lloydminster, Alberta, May 4-6, 2005)

At this conference, Premiers released two news releases. The releases focused on the top immediate economic priorities for the West, which included major improvements in transportation infrastructure, trade, energy, training and post-secondary education, and the importance of the northern territories in promoting trade in western Canada. Premiers also called for a national response to the devastation caused by the mountain pine and spruce bark beetles, gave special attention to the alarming spread of crystal methamphetamine across the country, and provided the location of the 2006 conference in Gimli, Manitoba.

The news releases can be obtained from the Ministry, or the following websites:

- http://www.scics.gc.ca/cinfo05/850103004_e.html
- http://www.scics.gc.ca/cinfo05/850103005_e.html

Council of the Federation Meeting (Banff, Alberta, August 10-12, 2005)

This meeting resulted in three news releases.

One announced progress on a number of issues, such as the development of a National Transportation Strategy and a pan-Canadian Energy Strategy, creating and improving ties with new and emerging economies, and continued work with the federal government to address issues of national importance (e.g., Canada-U.S. relations, softwood lumber dispute).

Another identified several key initiatives, including a "summit on Post-Secondary Education as a first step to improve skills training and post-secondary education; expediting key elements of its National Pharmaceutical Strategy; and a request for the federal government to appropriately meet its financial responsibility for funding catastrophic drugs; a three-step integrated and collaborative approach to address the increased use of crystal methamphetamine and other addictions; and key steps to tackle the fiscal imbalance.

The third set the location of the 2006 meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The news releases can be obtained from the Ministry, or the following websites:

- http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/communique_aug11.pdf
- http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/communique_aug12.pdf
- http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/communique_nfld_aug12.pdf

Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders (Kelowna, British Columbia, November 24-25, 2005)

At this meeting, First Ministers and national Aboriginal leaders announced a 10-year dedicated effort to closing the gap in living standards between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians. The proposal commits the federal/provincial/territorial governments to address the serious conditions that contribute to poverty among Aboriginal peoples and to ensure that they can more fully benefit from and contribute to Canada's prosperity, while still recognizing and respecting the diverse and unique history, traditions, cultures and rights of the Aboriginal people. First Ministers and national Aboriginal leaders agreed that broad indicators in education, housing and health will be used to assess progress. In addition, more specific measures and targets will be developed at regional and sub-regional levels.

The news release can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.socsjc.ca/cinfo05/8480944004_e.pdf

Council of the Federation Presents New Vision for Transportation (December 8, 2005)

Premiers Gordon Campbell of British Columbia, John Hamm of Nova Scotia and Joe Handley of the Northwest Territories announced the Council of the Federation's call for a new partnership with Ottawa to ensure that Canada's transportation system is safe, secure and supportive to the global trading network. The Council outlined its plan with the release of the national transportation strategy document, *Looking to the Future: A Plan for Investing in Canada's Transportation System*. The strategy proposes a new transportation funding partnership, identifies a strategic transportation network, describes preliminary provincial and territorial priorities, and recommends changes to the policy framework.

The news release and a copy of the national transportation strategy document can be obtained from the Ministry, or the following websites:

- http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/NTS_NR.pdf
- http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/NTS_Booklet.pdf

CORE BUSINESS 2 –
International Relations

GOAL 2:

PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF, AND SECURING BENEFITS FOR, ALBERTA FROM STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

PREMIER'S MISSIONS

Premier's Mission to Germany, South Africa, and Ireland (September 22–October 4, 2005)

In Germany, Premier Klein met with the Frankfurt Economic Development Corporation and German businesses to discuss opportunities for further building Alberta-Germany ties. He also received first-hand information about the outcome of Germany's September 18, 2005, election and discussed the implications for Alberta-Germany trade and investment ties.

In South Africa, Premier Klein promoted Alberta's energy industry at the World Petroleum Congress (WPC) in Johannesburg. Premier Klein, joined by the Honourable Greg Melchin, Minister of Energy, promoted Alberta as a key supplier in meeting world energy demands and as a prime location for energy investment. They supported Alberta companies exhibiting and receiving awards at the WPC, and met with energy ministers and decision makers of key countries (e.g., India) to advance Alberta's bilateral interests. As a result of these meetings, the Indian Secretary of Petroleum and Natural Gas has encouraged Indian companies to consider investment in Alberta.

Premier Klein also undertook the first Premier's mission to Mpumalanga, Alberta's South African sister province. The Premier discussed with Mpumalanga's Premier, Thabang Makwetla, opportunities for further cooperation between Alberta and Mpumalanga (e.g., environmental management, agricultural processing and tourism) and renewed the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning agreement. Premier Klein also toured a community centre in the municipality of Nkomazi that was based on an Alberta service delivery model.

In Ireland, Premier Klein met with the Irish health minister and visited a health facility. Ireland is an acknowledged leader in health infrastructure, where improved access to electronic health records has enhanced patient safety, delivered more timely treatment and streamlined billing. Premier Klein reviewed Ireland's health records management system with a view to assessing best practices for Alberta.

Premier's Mission to Colorado and New York (June 10-17, 2005)

Premier Klein participated in the 2005 annual meeting of the Western Governors' Association in Breckenridge, Colorado. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss Canada-U.S. relations and to raise awareness among governors of the issues and priorities important to western provinces. During a plenary session in which Premier Klein enquired about the impact of the BSE border closure on the U.S., U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Mike Johanns, revealed that thousands of jobs had been lost in the U.S. beef-processing sector. The Agriculture Secretary went on to urge the reopening of the border, indicating that the rest of the world was watching how the U.S. was treating its number one trading partner on BSE.

During a meeting with U.S. Energy Secretary, Samuel Bodman, Premier Klein highlighted Alberta's success in oil sands production and advised of Alberta's interest in partnering with the U.S. in clean coal technology. Premier Klein met with Governor Schweitzer of Montana, reiterating Alberta's goals of opening the border to Canadian beef and improving relations with Montana. A meeting with Governor Murkowski of Alaska confirmed their joint commitment to the Alaska pipeline and the importance of North American energy security.

In New York, Premier Klein focused on marketing Alberta via targeted meetings and events with Wall Street investors, analysts and business media. The Premier emphasized Alberta's growing importance to the U.S. as a safe, secure and reliable source of energy. Alberta's film and tourism industries also were promoted.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Planning for *Alberta at the Smithsonian*

Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations, in collaboration with Alberta Community Development, led planning for Alberta's participation at *Alberta at the Smithsonian*. *Alberta at the Smithsonian* would mark the first time a Canadian jurisdiction is featured at the 10-day Smithsonian Folklife Festival (June 30-July 11).

While Alberta Community Development, in conjunction with Smithsonian curators, was responsible for developing the program for on-site events for the 10-day festival, the Ministry was responsible for organizing *Alberta Week in Washington* by developing a week-long series of off-site events (starting June 26), targeted at high-level decision makers, leading up to the festival. The Ministry planned sector-specific economic forums on energy, agriculture and technology; a gala dinner for a broad cross-section of Washington's political, cultural and business community; a forum at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies on the new leadership in U.S.-Canada relations; a congressional reception; and Canada Day and July 4 events. As well, the Ministry worked with partners, including Alberta universities and the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, as they developed their promotional events for *Alberta Week in Washington*. The Ministry also developed a partnership program and led a sponsorship drive to work with Alberta corporations, municipalities, institutions and organizations in support of *Alberta at the Smithsonian*.

Centennial Celebrations and Alberta's Special Relationships (August 29-September 1, 2005)

Over the past 30 years, Alberta has entered into special relationships with 15 provinces and states around the world. Premier Klein invited the leaders of each of these special relationship provinces and states to visit Alberta in August to take part in the province's centennial celebrations. Seven jurisdictions (Heilongjiang, China; Hokkaido, Japan; Khanty-Mansii, Russia; Lviv, Ukraine; Montana, U.S.; Mpumalanga, South Africa; and Saxony, Germany) accepted the invitation and joined the Premier and Albertans for the centennial celebrations.

The Ministry developed a five-day program that showcased Alberta's strengths and culminated in the province's centennial celebrations on September 1. Key aspects of the program included a tour of oil sands operations in Fort McMurray hosted by the Minister of Economic Development, and the unveiling of a monument on the Legislature grounds by the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations to commemorate Alberta's twinning relationships.

In addition to the centennial celebrations, the visit also provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations:

- Premier Klein and Governor Olyinyk signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a new sister province relationship between Alberta and Lviv, Ukraine;
- Premier Klein and Governor Zhang renewed the Alberta-Heilongjiang twinning agreement;
- Premier Klein and Governor Schweitzer of Montana discussed BSE and energy matters;
- Premier Klein and Premier Makwetla of Mpumalanga discussed possible governance projects; and
- Premier Klein and Vice-Governor Novitski discussed Khanty-Mansii's proposal for enhanced cooperation.

International Missions to Alberta

The Ministry worked with partners in Protocol; Alberta Economic Development; Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; and other ministries to develop strategically focused programs for 52 incoming delegations. Some of the visitors to Alberta were:

- Chairman of the Yamal-Nenets state legislature in Russia, the Honourable Sergey Kharyuchi and a 31-member delegation;
- Seven delegations (Hokkaido, Heilongjiang, Khanty-Mansii, Lviv, Montana, Mpumalanga, and Saxony) for Alberta's centennial celebrations;
- Governor of Gangwon, Korea, the Honourable Jin-Sun Kim and an 11-member delegation;
- Vice-Governor of Hokkaido, Japan, the Honourable Yoshinobu Yoshizawa and a five-member delegation; and
- Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Canada from Algeria, Cuba, the European Union, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Thailand and Tunisia.

UNITED STATES AND AMERICAS INITIATIVES

Alberta Office in Washington, D.C.

The Alberta Office in Washington is primarily policy-oriented, setting it apart from the other Alberta international offices that have a trade and investment mandate. The Alberta Office focuses on advancing Alberta's interests and views at the highest levels of government, including the U.S. Administration and Congress, and with business associations, think-tanks and Washington media that help shape U.S. policy and public opinion.

The office works with Alberta ministers, officials and the private sector in partnership with the Canadian Embassy to:

- provide information and analysis to Alberta on political and economic developments in Washington;
- contribute to the development of Alberta's U.S. energy, trade, agricultural and investment strategies;
- ensure Alberta's views and priorities are understood and factored into Canadian policies and initiatives;
- build Alberta's profile in the U.S. as a secure, safe and reliable supplier of energy, agricultural products and other goods and services; and
- promote the sale of Alberta products and services in the U.S., in cooperation with Alberta businesses and government.

In its first full year of operation, the Alberta Office was instrumental in securing meetings with key decision makers in Washington and played a significant role in several favourable developments in U.S. policy. The advocacy efforts of the office directly resulted in a reference to Alberta in the recently passed U.S. *Energy Policy Act*. The Alberta Office also prepared a written submission about Alberta's vast energy resources for a hearing by the House Sub-Committee on Energy and Air Quality. The Alberta Office regularly meets with stakeholders to maintain its effective advocacy efforts. For example, consultations were undertaken with the Canadian Cattleman's Association regarding the BSE issue and the anticipated rule for cattle over 30-months of age entering the United States.

The Alberta Office organized several notable missions to Washington, D.C. by Alberta's Ministers of Energy, Community Development, Restructuring and Government Efficiency, Solicitor General and Minister for Public Security. Of particular note were meetings the office arranged during missions by Alberta's Energy Minister, including meetings with the Secretary of Energy, Chief of Staff to Vice-President Cheney, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), members of the Senate National Security Council, and assistant secretaries in the Departments of Energy and State.

One of the major goals of the Alberta Office in Washington is to encourage influential individuals to visit Alberta to gain a better understanding of the province. The Alberta Office successfully coordinated oil sands tours for Congressional staffers, the Canadian Ambassador to the U.S., and prominent members of the U.S. energy media. The office also arranged a tour of Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray) for senior officials from the International Monetary Fund, as well as a tour of Alberta (including some feedlots) for the Chair of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee and eight Congressmen.

The Alberta Office's location allows Alberta to regularly attend significant U.S. events such as the National Governor's Association reception at the Canadian Embassy and to present at events such as the World Energy Council's North American Forum. Alberta's established presence in Washington, D.C., also has been invaluable to Alberta's Smithsonian project team as they prepared for the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

The office has generated unparalleled U.S. media coverage of Alberta and its key role in North American energy supply and security. News articles have appeared in major U.S. dailies, including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, and *Washington Post*. The oil sands also were featured on the CBS newsmagazine, *60 Minutes*.

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

The annual meeting of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) was held in Seattle, Washington from July 14-18, 2005. The Ministry provided strategic coordination for Alberta's participation and promoted cooperation in key areas such as energy, agriculture, workforce development, transportation and border issues. At the conclusion of the meeting, the PNWER executive agreed to hold their next annual meeting in Edmonton in July 2006.

Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council

The March 2006 meeting of the Alaska Alberta Bilateral Council (AABC) was held in Juneau, Alaska. Although energy and the gas pipeline were a key focus, the Council also examined other issues of common interest including transportation, Aboriginal issues and workforce development. Each of the four working groups developed work plans and were encouraged to maintain on-going dialogue. The Ministry coordinated Alberta's participation, which included private and public sector involvement.

Bilateral Meetings with Key Governors

The Premiers of Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon met with Governor Murkowski of Alaska on two separate occasions (October 31, 2005 in Vancouver and March 28, 2006 in Anchorage) to discuss the Alaska natural gas pipeline. These meetings provided an opportunity to review the latest developments on the pipeline and share information regarding the priorities and objectives of each jurisdiction. A strategic action plan was developed to move the project forward.

Visit by President Fox of Mexico

In September 2005, Alberta welcomed President Vicente Fox of Mexico. The President's visit provided an opportunity to showcase the strong relationship between Alberta and Mexico, which is the province's fourth largest trading partner. Agriculture, energy and environment were among the key sectors highlighted at a lunch event hosted by the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations.

ASIA PACIFIC INITIATIVES

Alberta-Hokkaido Relations

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relationship, the Ministry planned and delivered a program for two anniversary missions.

From June 29-July 7, 2005, the Honourable Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, on behalf of the Premier, led Alberta's official delegation to Japan to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relationship and to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Alberta's Japan office. During the mission, Minister Renner renewed the Alberta-Hokkaido Volunteerism Exchange Agreement on behalf of the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation, promoted Alberta food products at a Canada food fair in Sapporo, represented Alberta at the Canada Day reception at the World Exposition in Aichi, and explored best practices in Japan's municipal governance model and emergency preparedness measures.

The Ministry also worked with the Alberta-Japan Twinned Municipalities Association to include a 22-member group from four Alberta municipalities (Stony Plain, Wetaskiwin, Bon Accord and Barrhead) as part of Minister Renner's delegation. The Ministry also continued its annual support to the Alberta-Japan Twinned Municipalities Association.

Minister Renner's mission was reciprocated by a Hokkaido delegation to Alberta from October 16-19, 2005, capping off the 25th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido twinning. Hokkaido Vice-Governor Yoshinobu Yoshizawa and a five-member government delegation were accompanied by a 26-member group representing towns, schools and other areas involved in Alberta's twinning with Hokkaido. Highlights of the visit included a tree planting ceremony on the Legislature grounds by Vice-Governor Yoshizawa and Speaker Ken Kowalski, the signing of a renewed Alberta-Hokkaido twinning agreement and a new museum agreement by Vice-Governor Yoshizawa and Premier Klein.

Alberta-Gangwon Relations

From October 9-12, 2005, the Ministry hosted the visit of Gangwon Governor Jin-sun Kim and an 11-member delegation to mark the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Gangwon sister province relationship and to celebrate Alberta's centennial. While 2004 marked the 30th anniversary, Governor Kim's visit was delayed until this year to coincide with the completion of a Korean-style pavilion. As a centennial gift to Alberta and to mark the 30th anniversary, Gangwon undertook the construction of an impressive and colourful pavilion on the grounds of the Royal Alberta Museum, overlooking the North Saskatchewan River. Highlights of the governor's visit included a tree planting ceremony on the Legislature grounds by Governor Kim and Mr. Wayne Cao, MLA Calgary Fort, and Governor Kim's presentation of the pavilion to Premier Klein in a dedication ceremony at the Royal Alberta Museum.

EUROPE INITIATIVES

Alberta-Germany Relations

The Ministry continued to work with various Alberta departments to raise Alberta's profile and strengthen relations with Germany. The Ministry provided support to Alberta Education as it hosted in March a visit from a 20-member Bavarian parliamentary delegation examining Alberta's performance on international education testing, and welcomed the Canadian Deputy Ambassador to Germany, Robert Vanderloo.

Alberta-Ukraine Relations

Alberta remained committed to the advancement of democracy in Ukraine, particularly as the people of Ukraine moved forward from the "Orange Revolution" of 2004 to the parliamentary elections of March 2006. The Ministry supplemented the work of the Canadian federal government and Ukrainian-Canadians by providing funding for election monitors to travel from Alberta to Ukraine for the March 26 elections.

One of the highlights of the visit of Alberta's special relationship provinces and states to Alberta's centennial was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a new sister province relationship with Lviv in western Ukraine by Premier Klein and Governor Olyinyk. The MOU focuses on strengthening ties in education, culture, farm management and reform, and education.

The Ministry continued to serve as the Secretariat for the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR), which held three meetings on August 11, 2005; September 26, 2005; and January 26, 2006. Priorities for the ACAUR include election monitoring in Ukraine and advancing cooperation between Alberta and Ukraine in intergovernmental cooperation, education, culture and agriculture.

Alberta-Russia Relations

From July 21-31, 2005, the Ministry welcomed a 32-member delegation from Yamal-Nenets, Alberta's sister province on the Arctic Circle in western Siberia, Russia. As a gift to Alberta on the occasion of its centennial, Yamal-Nenets mounted an impressive exhibition at the Klondike Days Exhibition in Edmonton. The delegation, led by the Honourable Sergey Kharyuchi, chairman of the Yamal-Nenets state legislature, included senior government officials, performers and craftsmen. As a part of the Klondike Days Exhibition, performers showcased the dancing and singing traditions of northern Russia's indigenous peoples and craftsmen conducted carving and beadwork technique master classes. The delegation also participated in a business roundtable hosted by the Leduc-Nisku Economic Development Authority, met with government officials, and jointly performed with local Aboriginal groups at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre.

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OFFICE

International Projects

Alberta's International Governance Office (IGO) worked with private sector and education institution partners on nine incoming delegations for the year (e.g., China, South Africa, Russia, Ukraine and Mexico). The office also participated in the negotiations of an agreement with the province of Shandong and the University of Alberta for future governance training.

Indian Institute of Public Administration MOU (September 22-October 9, 2005)

The IGO oversaw the planning and execution of MLA Shiraz Shariff's mission to India that resulted in the signing of a MOU with the Indian Institute of Public Administration. During the India mission, Mr. Shariff, as chair of Alberta's IGO Advisory Committee, promoted its services, explored potential partnerships with Indian organizations and state and municipal governments, and discussed Alberta's Emergency Management Response Centre and the technology used for provincial and municipal disaster management.

International Financial Institutions (IFI) Bootcamp (October 16-21, 2005)

The Ministry directed the development and execution of Canada's first-ever Workshop on IFI Proposal Development aimed at companies interested in bidding on contracts with International Financial Institutions. The workshop was designed to provide participants with the tools needed to bid successfully on contracts. The IFI Bootcamp pulled together 23 participants from across Canada and featured speakers from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Ministry and Alberta Economic Development organized seminars on various aspects of the contract bidding process and arranged one-on-one coaching sessions.

PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Successfully Promoting Alberta by Strengthened International Relations

U.S. Relations

The Ministry continued to strengthen relations with the U.S., Alberta's closest and largest trading partner. The key focus of discussions by the Premier and the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations in 2005-06 was raising awareness about the security of Alberta's energy supply and the reopening of the border to live cattle.

More information on these initiatives can be found in the corresponding Ministry mission reports at:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/missions.asp

2002-03

June 2002
Premier met western governors in Yukon (energy, pipelines).

IIR Minister, two other ministers and two MLAs attended Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council meeting (agricultural issues).

July 2002
IIR Minister, another minister and five MLAs attended Pacific NorthWest Economic Region meeting (energy, agriculture, transportation issues).

December 2002
Premier promoted investment opportunities with business people in New York.

2003-04

June 2003
Premier met with U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney and others (BSE, oil sands).

IIR Minister, another minister and three MLAs attended Montana-Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council (BSE, water, borders).

July 2003
IIR Minister, five other ministers, and 15 MLAs attended Pacific NorthWest Economic Region meeting in Calgary (energy, emergency preparedness, agriculture).

September 2003
Premier attended Western Governors' Association meeting in Montana (BSE, energy, firefighting).

March 2004
Premier and Deputy Premier met Senators and agriculture officials in Washington, D.C. to urge border reopening for cattle.

2004-05

April 2004
Premier was key note speaker at Western Governors' Energy Summit. One minister and one MLA attended Western Governors' Association meeting (oil sands, electricity transmission, pipeline capacity).

May 2004
Premier, three ministers and two MLAs met with Alaska Governor Murkowski in Alberta to re-sign Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council MOU (energy, transportation/tourism, workforce development, Aboriginal issues).

July 2004
Three ministers and three MLAs attended Pacific NorthWest Economic Region meeting (energy, agriculture, border issues, transportation).

February 2005
IIR Minister and Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister met with Canadian Embassy officials, U.S. Department of Energy officials, and officials from Montana and Alaska (Alberta Office in Washington, D.C., BSE, energy supply).

March 2005
Premier met with U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman, Governor of Massachusetts, and Canada's new Ambassador to the U.S. McKenna (energy supply and security, expanded trade/investment, BSE, softwood lumber, Alberta Office opening).

2005-06

June 2005
Premier attended the Western Governors' Association meeting in Breckenridge, Colorado (BSE, energy). Premier also promoted investment opportunities in New York with investors, analysts and business media.

July 2005
Three ministers and two MLAs attended the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region meeting in Seattle, Washington (agriculture, energy, workforce development, border issues and transportation).

August 2005
Premier met with Governor Schweitzer of Montana in Edmonton (bilateral relations, BSE, energy).

October 2005
Premier met with Governor Murkowski of Alaska, Premier Campbell of British Columbia and Premier Fentie of the Yukon in Vancouver, British Columbia to discuss the Alaska Pipeline. A follow-up meeting was held in Anchorage in March 2006.

March 2006
A minister and two MLAs attended the Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council meeting in Juneau, Alaska (Alaska pipeline, workforce development, transportation, aboriginal issues).

Premier met with Governor Murkowski of Alaska, Minister of State for Intergovernmental Affairs van Dongen of British Columbia, and Premier Fentie of the Yukon in Anchorage, Alaska to discuss the construction of the Canadian segment of the proposed Alaska Pipeline.

Bilateral Relations with Other World Regions

Bilateral relations between Alberta and other world regions were initiated or enhanced through missions to and from Alberta. These missions paved the way for increased activity between Alberta and other world regions, including the signing of several MOUs.

More information on these initiatives can be found in the corresponding Ministry mission reports at:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/missions.asp

2002-03

May 2002
Premier signed Memorandum of Understanding with International Finance Corporation in Ukraine (agriculture).

June 2002
Premier signed Memorandum of Understanding initiating collaboration through a bilateral advisory council between Alberta and Alaska.

September 2002
Premier discussed energy reform and cooperation between Alberta and Mexico with Government of Mexico and the Secretariat of Energy of the United Mexican States.

2003-04

May 2003
IIR Minister in Dresden to lay groundwork for future joint initiatives with Saxony, Germany.

August 2003
Governor of Jalisco, Mexico, visited Alberta. During his visit, a cooperation agreement on forestry was signed between Alberta and Jalisco.

January 2004
Premier explored areas of potential cooperation in energy and training with India.

February 2004
Deputy Premier of Saxony, Germany visited Alberta. During his visit, Alberta and Saxony signed an agreement on learning.

2004-05

June 2004
Premier's mission to China and Korea (safety of Alberta beef, energy security and supply, signing of MOUs on energy, science and technology, and education).

Visit of Japan's Imperial Highness Princess Takamado to commemorate 75th anniversary of Canada-Japan bilateral relations and rename the University of Alberta's Centre for the Teaching of Japanese Language and Culture to the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research.

July 2004
Premier signed Alberta Washington office co-location MOU with Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

August 2004
Visit of Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk to sign MOU on cooperation with Alberta.

January 2005
Premier renewed Alberta-Saxony MOU.

2005-06

June 2005
Minister Renner's mission to Japan (25th anniversary of Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relations).

July 2005
Visit of chairman of the Yamal-Nenets state legislature in Russia, and a 31-member delegation (Alberta's centennial and further cooperation between Alberta and Yamal-Nenets).

August 2005
Visit of seven sister province delegations (Alberta's centennial, renewed Alberta-Heilongjiang twinning, and new Alberta-Lviv twinning).

September 2005
Visit by the President of Mexico (agriculture, energy, and environment).

October 2005
Premier's mission to Germany, South Africa and Ireland (Alberta-Germany relations, World Petroleum Congress, Ireland's health records management system).

Visit of the Gangwon governor and an 11-member delegation (Alberta's centennial and 30th anniversary of Alberta-Gangwon sister province relations).

Visit of the Hokkaido Vice-Governor and a five-member delegation (25th anniversary of Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relations, renewed Alberta-Hokkaido twinning, and new museum agreement).

Alberta signed an MOU with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (cooperation and training initiatives for environmental management, emergency management and response, e-government, public administration, and freedom of information legislation).

December 2005
IIR Minister, along with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Minister, represented Alberta as part of Canada's delegation to World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR GOAL 2

The Ministry has four performance measures for Goal 2 for 2005-06. The Client Satisfaction measure is intended to assess client satisfaction with services provided by the International Relations Section. The number of significant events/opportunities that advance Alberta's interests through the Washington, D.C. office are recorded, with a Ministry target of 75 events/opportunities in 2005-06. The Ministry also has a target of posting 100 per cent of the Premier's and Minister's international mission expenses on the Ministry's website within two months of the mission's conclusion. Narrative records and reports from major international meetings and missions describe further progress to Business Plan Goal 2.

2.a Client Satisfaction

A key element of the Ministry's success is the quality of relationships built with clients and partners, including other Alberta government ministries, and other Canadian provincial and territorial governments. To help advance Alberta's interests, these relationships must be developed and fostered over the long term. The Ministry's biennial client satisfaction survey is a key instrument for assessing the quality and effectiveness of these relationships. The last survey was conducted in January 2005. The next survey will be conducted in January 2007.

Clients are asked to rate service performance on a five-point scale, ranging from 1=very dissatisfied to 5=very satisfied.

The Ministry's target in 2005, and again in 2007, is to achieve a high satisfaction rating of 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale from the Ministry's key clients. In 2005, the Ministry exceeded its target with a 4.5 client satisfaction rating for services provided by International Relations.

Client satisfaction ratings are shown below. Results for all areas polled in the 2005 client satisfaction survey are detailed in Appendix 1. Comparisons to previous years' results are also shown.

Results:

GOAL 2: Client satisfaction with services provided by International Relations

Actuals				Target
1999	2001	2003	2005	2007
4.2	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.0

Data Source: 2005 Equus client satisfaction survey results

The Ministry finds the semi-annual client survey useful in evaluating the satisfaction of key clients, both within and outside the Alberta government. While very positive results are evident throughout each of the six surveys to date, there are minor variations that generate internal review. Staff make use of the information and feedback to consider their interaction with clients for the future.

2.b Washington Events/Opportunities

(Target = 75 significant events/opportunities)

The Ministry exceeded its target of the Alberta Office in Washington (AWO) undertaking 78 significant events/opportunities. The AWO communicates with the department on an ongoing basis, reporting on its activities and highlighting significant events/opportunities, which are subsequently reported in the Annual Report. The term "significant" applies to an event or opportunity that advances Alberta's profile or interests in the United States in a meaningful way, with a particular focus on promoting strong Alberta-U.S. relations, relationship-building and establishing policy contacts in the U.S.

The list of significant events and/or opportunities during 2005-06 includes:

- Securing national American media coverage for Alberta energy in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, Washington Post and *60 Minutes*.
- Helping plan Alberta's participation in the 2006 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, including assisting with Alberta missions, liaising with the Smithsonian Institution, securing sponsorships, and planning complementary economic and policy initiatives.
- Establishing high level contacts and providing briefings on Alberta energy with U.S. government leaders, including the Senate and Senate committees, U.S. Governors, the Department of Energy, the House Committee on Resources, the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality.
- Establishing numerous contacts with U.S. government officials to represent Alberta's concerns with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.
- Promoting Alberta to New York's financial community by supporting a mission by Premier Klein.
- Supporting Canadian beef interests by helping monitor potential R-CALF supplementary legal action, by including Alberta views in a Canadian response to proposed additional cross-border cattle inspections, and by securing Alberta beef to demonstrate its safety and quality to over 1500 Canada Day guests at the Canadian Embassy.
- Helping organize separate oil sands tours by the U.S. Treasury Secretary, Congressional staffers, Ambassador McKenna, and key U.S. media that resulted in better understanding of Alberta's oil sands and major American media coverage.
- Arranging meetings between Alberta Ministers and U.S. government leaders, including the Secretary of Energy, the Senior Director of Border Security and Transportation Security, the Vice-President, and former President George Bush, Sr.

- Raising Alberta issues in a discussion on Canada-U.S. agriculture and forestry with the former U.S. Trade Representative and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.
- Helping Albertans stranded in the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina, and helping arrange and present Alberta's $5 million donation to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Relief Fund.
- Working with the office of a senior Senator resulting in a U.S. bill on oil sands and oil shale development that proposed an Alberta-U.S. partnership. This bill became part of the 2005 U.S. *Energy Policy Act*.
- Making presentations on Canada-U.S. relations at forums and conferences, at a Canadian federal/provincial/territorial meeting, and at several American universities.
- Delivering keynote speeches on Alberta's energy industry, Canada/U.S. relations and American energy policy at a range of American and Canadian industry and government forums and conferences.
- Attracting senior U.S. politicians and officials to several Alberta forums and meetings, including the Global Business Forum in Banff.
- Helping plan and coordinate a visit to Alberta for International Monetary Fund officials to prepare the Canada chapter of the upcoming issue of World Economic Outlook.

Source: Alberta Office in Washington, D.C.

2.c Ministry Mission Expense Reports
(Target = 100 per cent posted within two months)

The Ministry posted 25 per cent of the international mission expense reports for the Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations on the Ministry's website within two months of the mission's conclusion. The reports of missions undertaken by other ministers and MLAs on behalf of the Premier or Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations are also included.

Mission expense reports can be obtained from the Ministry or the website:

- http://www.gov.ab.ca/expenditure/?id=24

Some reports were delayed because of international banking delays and currency exchange matters. Verification of travel and expense information also caused some delays.

Processes for tracking and verifying travel expenses are being reviewed. The target timeline will be re-evaluated to allow the appropriate time to verify and process all mission expenses.

- Premier's Mission to Colorado and New York (June 10 to 17, 2005) – Posted September 16, 2005
- Mission to Japan (June 29 to July 7, 2005) – Posted September 21, 2005
- Alberta Mission to Seattle, Washington (July 14 to 18, 2005) – Posted September 30, 2005
- Premier's Mission to Germany, South Africa and Ireland (September 22 to October 4, 2005) – Posted December 6, 2005
- MLA Shiraz Shariff's Mission to South Africa and India (September 22 to October 9, 2005) – Posted December 20, 2005

- Mission to Hong Kong World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference (December 13 to 18, 2005) – Posted February 17, 2006
- Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council meeting in Juneau, Alaska (March 23, 2006) – Posted May 23, 2006
- Premier's Mission to Anchorage, Alaska (March 27 to 28, 2006) – Posted June 12, 2006.

2.d Narrative Records for International Relations

The Ministry documents its performance on key initiatives through publicly released reports issued at the conclusion of international missions led by the Premier, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, or other ministers and MLAs undertaking a mission on behalf of the Premier or International and Intergovernmental Relations. These reports assess how the province achieved its objectives. The Ministry met its target of reporting 100 per cent of reports/narrative records from the Premier's and Minister's international missions, transboundary meetings and newsletters produced by the International Governance Office and the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations.

Listed below are the narrative records for Goal 2:

Reports on International Missions

Mission reports for the Premier's and Minister's missions are developed by Ministry officials in consultation with provincial representatives who participated in the mission. Captured in mission reports are the mission objectives, mission results, significant issues addressed during the mission, opportunities identified and follow up required.

Final Report: Mission to Japan (June 29-July 7, 2005)

This report highlights Minister Renner's mission to Japan on behalf of the Premier. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Renewing the Alberta-Hokkaido Volunteerism Exchange Agreement;
- Promoting Alberta food products at a Canadian food fair in Sapporo;
- Representing Alberta at the Canada Day reception at the World Exposition in Aichi; and
- Exploring best practices in Japan's municipal governance model and emergency preparedness measures.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.ir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/missionreport.pdf

Final Report: Premier's Mission to Germany, South Africa and Ireland (September 22-October 4, 2005)

This report highlights Premier Klein's mission to Germany, South Africa, and Ireland. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Discussing opportunities for building Alberta-Germany ties with German businesses;

- Promoting Alberta as a key supplier in meeting world energy demand and as a prime energy investment opportunity;
- Supporting Alberta companies exhibiting and receiving awards at the World Petroleum Congress;
- Meeting with energy ministers and decision makers of key countries to advance Alberta's bilateral interest;
- Leading the first Premier's mission to Mpumalanga, Alberta's South African sister province;
- Renewing the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning agreement; and
- Reviewing Ireland's health records management system with a view to assessing best practices for Alberta.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.ir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/premiermissionreport.pdf

Final Report: Mission to South Africa and India (September 22-October 9, 2005)

This report highlights MLA Shiraz Shariff's mission to South Africa and India as the chair of Alberta's International Governance Office Advisory Committee. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Discussing and exploring opportunities for future Alberta-Mpumalanga governance initiatives and projects;
- Promoting Alberta's International Governance Office and exploring potential partnerships with Indian organizations and state and municipal governments; and
- Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Public Administration to enable cooperative governance-focused initiatives.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry or the website:

- http://www.ir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/shariffmissionreport.pdf

Final Report: Mission to Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference (December 13-18, 2005)

This report highlights Alberta's participation at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference. The Ministers of International and Intergovernmental Relations and Agriculture, Food and Rural Development represented Alberta as part of the Canadian delegation. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Providing input to federal ministers and officials during the negotiations to ensure provincial concerns were raised and provincial constitutional responsibilities respected; and
- Meeting with representatives of other countries and industry organizations to advance Alberta's interests.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry or the website:

- http://www.ir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/WTOMissionReport.pdf

Reports on Accomplishments at Canada-U.S. Transboundary Meetings

Final Report: Premier's Mission to Colorado and New York (June 10-17, 2005)

This report highlights Premier Klein's participation in the Western Governors' Association annual meeting in Colorado and Alberta's annual investment mission to New York. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Profiling Alberta's key role as a safe, secure and reliable source of growing energy supply;
- Raising awareness and commitment to achieving a greater role for states and provinces in the development of North America's energy future;
- Advocating for the reopening of the Canada-U.S. border to Canadian cattle;
- Meeting site selectors to showcase the advantages Alberta offers to new businesses;
- Headlining an Alberta film promotion;
- Promoting Alberta at a dinner with key New York business executives, hosted by Canadian Consul General Pamela Wallin;
- Attending an Alberta Day Centennial celebration and meetings at the New York Stock Exchange; and
- Conducting private meetings with potential investors in Alberta.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/combinedmissionreport.pdf

(Note: The travel dates identified in the news release for this mission are June12-19, 2005. The mission was undertaken from June 10-17, 2005 and is reflected in the mission report as such.)

Final Report: Alberta Mission to Seattle, Washington (July 14-18, 2005)

This report highlights Alberta's participation in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region annual summit. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Advising U.S. decision-makers of Alberta's strong support for a closer relationship between Canada and the United States, including greater economic integration;
- Contributing to efforts aimed at a regional approach to increasing government and business ties;
- Offering and sharing Alberta's expertise and positions on various issues in agriculture, border transportation and sustainable development;
- Developing meaningful resolutions and action items to enhance regional cooperation on issues of importance to Alberta; and
- Expressing Alberta's interest in hosting the 2006 annual summit in Edmonton.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/seattlemissionreport.pdf

Final Report: Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council meeting in Juneau, Alaska (March 23-24, 2006)

This report highlights Alberta's participation at the Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council meetings March 23-24. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Meeting with Alaska counterparts on the Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council to pursue joint interests and opportunities for collaboration; and

- Building on existing Alberta-Alaska ties and enhancing relationships between Alberta and Alaska public and private-sector leaders.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/alaskamissionreport.pdf

Final Report: Premier's Mission to Anchorage, Alaska (March 27-28, 2006)

This report highlights Premier Klein's mission to Anchorage, Alaska. Mission objectives and achievements include:

- Meeting with Alaska, British Columbia and Yukon counterparts at the Alaska-Canada Regional Summit to review developments for the proposed Alaska natural gas pipeline;
- Meeting with Alaska business community representatives; and
- Meeting with the Alaska World Affairs Council and Resource Development Council to discuss Alberta's interests and objectives on moving forward on the Alaska gas pipeline construction.

The mission report can be obtained from the Ministry or the website:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/premierakmissionreport.pdf

Newsletters by Alberta's International Governance Office and the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations

There are two newsletters produced by the Ministry targeted to specific client groups, reporting progress on key initiatives and identifying upcoming events/initiatives of interest. These newsletters are developed by staff in consultation with relevant clients.

Governance Gateway…information about Alberta's International Governance Office (Summer 2005)

One newsletter was produced in the reporting period. The newsletter was developed by Ministry officials in consultation with Alberta Economic Development and with other private and public sector partners. The newsletter identified recent International Governance Office activities and upcoming events that may be of interest to the office's stakeholders.

The newsletter can be obtained from the Ministry, or from the website:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/IGOJune2005Newsletter-27July05.pdf

The Alberta Ukraine Connector (Fall 2005)

One newsletter was produced in the reporting period. The newsletter featured the activities of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR) and the highlights of Ukraine-focused accomplishments of the Government of Alberta. The document was assembled by Ministry officials in consultation with ACAUR members.

The newsletter can be obtained from the Ministry, or from the website:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/documents/ACAURFallNewsletter2005.pdf

GOAL 3:

PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF, AND SECURING BENEFITS FOR, ALBERTA FROM GREATER TRADE AND INVESTMENT LIBERALIZATION, INTERNATIONALLY AND DOMESTICALLY.

Provincial Role in International Negotiations

In March 2004, the Council of the Federation directed provincial ministers to undertake efforts to develop a mechanism for full provincial/territorial participation in international trade negotiations, agreements and fora. Alberta and New Brunswick were designated as lead provinces for the exercise. Following consultation, a consensus provincial/territorial framework document was concluded in May 2004, and sent to the federal government. No further federal/provincial/territorial meetings have been held since May 2004. In March 2006, the Ministry developed a consensus provincial/territorial letter to the new federal government, outlining provincial/territorial concern with lack of progress on this initiative and proposing to start discussions from the basis of the May 2004 provincial/territorial framework. Provinces and territories continue to pursue federal re-engagement.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Alberta pursued its interests in the current round of trade liberalization negotiations (the Doha Development Agenda) taking place under the World Trade Organization (WTO). A key outcome this year was the December 2005 Ministerial Meeting, which Alberta attended, and which set the parameters for what hopefully will be the final push to conclude the Doha round negotiations. Alberta further promoted its interests in a November meeting of federal/provincial/territorial ministers to discuss Canada's approaches to the WTO Ministerial Conference. As well, during the year, the Minister forwarded letters on Alberta's agricultural and other trade interests. In July 2005, Alberta prepared a compilation of its many detailed submissions regarding trade remedy reform in the WTO. Alberta has provided extensive input to the Government of Canada as it prepares submissions for the WTO Rules negotiating group. Alberta also forwarded a paper on Alberta's non-agricultural market access priorities in November 2005. Alberta followed up on the December ministerial meeting with substantive commentary on its interests in the areas of agriculture, trade remedy reform, trade in goods, and trade in services. Alberta officials attended the WTO Public Symposium in April 2005 and had the opportunity to meet with WTO Secretariat staff and representatives of other WTO members.

Softwood Lumber

The Ministry continued to work with Sustainable Resource Development in ongoing efforts to resolve the softwood lumber dispute. Since May 2002, the U.S. has been collecting countervailing and anti-dumping duties on imports of lumber from Canada. At the end of the reporting period, the combined duty rate was approximately 10 per cent.

Canada has initiated several distinct legal challenges in the WTO and under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) against U.S. rulings made in anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations. Both the Ministry and Sustainable Resource Development have worked closely with Washington D.C.-based legal counsel to defend Alberta programs and to ensure that Alberta positions were reflected in overall Canadian legal arguments.

In August 2005, an Extraordinary Challenge Committee established under the NAFTA upheld the decision of a NAFTA dispute resolution panel that compelled the U.S. International Trade Commission to reverse its finding that imports of Canadian softwood lumber posed a threat of "material injury" to U.S. producers. This should have led to the revocation of the U.S. countervailing and anti-dumping duty orders, and a refund of all duties collected. The U.S.'s unwillingness to abide by the NAFTA decision resulted in a suspension of Canada-U.S. discussions. Near the end of the reporting period, efforts resumed to find a basis for the resumption of discussions between Canada and the U.S.

The Ministry and Sustainable Resource Development have also continued to conduct extensive consultations with industry, and have solicited input on issues related to the management of this dispute.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

The Ministry supported a number of NAFTA-related initiatives over the course of the year. In anticipation of the March 2006 NAFTA commission meeting, the Ministry developed and forwarded further proposals to the federal government on improving the North American relationship and NAFTA's institutions, focusing on trade remedy law reform and the more effective resolution of disputes. In June 2005, the Ministry forwarded its views regarding the *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America* (SPP) and its relationship to the working groups and committees established under NAFTA. The SPP deals with practical steps to improve the economic relationship in North America to complement and enhance what has been achieved in the NAFTA.

Bilateral and Regional Free Trade Initiatives

The Ministry worked to ensure that Alberta's priorities were incorporated into Canada's sectoral, regional and bilateral trade initiatives during the year. Key initiatives included:

- Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement

  The Governments of Canada and South Korea announced the launch of bilateral free trade negotiations in July 2005. Alberta forwarded its preliminary views on these negotiations in March 2005. During the fiscal year, the Ministry continued follow the status of, and to represent Alberta's interests in, these negotiations.

- **Canada-European Union (EU) Trade Initiatives**

  These negotiations were launched in May 2005, following agreement on a framework in March 2004. During the reporting period, the Ministry met with officials from the European Union in February 2006, to discuss the Canada-European Union *Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement* negotiations. The Ministry also continued to press for greater provincial involvement in the negotiations, since many of the issues under consideration involve provincial jurisdiction.

- **Potential Canada-Japan Trade Initiative**

  Canada and Japan announced the development of a cooperative Joint Economic Framework in November 2005. One key element of this framework is a joint study on the facilitation of bilateral trade and investment. This study is to be submitted to Prime Ministers in November 2006. Alberta outlined its preliminary interests in this initiative in March 2005, and continued to monitor developments and represent Alberta's views, throughout the fiscal year.

Canada-U.S. Wheat Dispute

The U.S. imposed anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of hard red spring wheat from Canada in October 2003. The Ministry worked with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Washington, D.C.-based legal counsel, as well as other Canadian governments, to challenge a U.S. Department of Commerce subsidy ruling made with respect to the provision of government-owned railcars. While a NAFTA panel upheld the Department of Commerce's ruling on this issue, the railcar subsidy was very small. During the reporting period, as a result of a ruling from another NAFTA panel, the U.S. International Trade Commission reversed its ruling that imports of Canadian hard red spring wheat were causing "material injury" to U.S. producers. As a result, the anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders were revoked in January 2006. However, by the end of the reporting period, the U.S. had not yet refunded the duties collected.

Canada-U.S. Live Swine Dispute

In April 2004, the U.S. Department of Commerce initiated countervailing and anti-dumping duty investigations against imports of live swine from Canada. In March 2005, the U.S. Department of Commerce ruled that Canadian federal and provincial governments were providing minimal subsidies to Canadian swine producers and the countervailing duty investigation was terminated. However, at the same time U.S. Department of Commerce found that Canadian exporters were dumping their product into the U.S. market.

In early April 2005, the U.S. International Trade Commission ruled that Canadian swine did not cause, or pose a threat of material injury to, U.S. producers. This effectively terminated the dispute and removed any risk of U.S. duties. The Ministry worked with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Washington, D.C.-based legal counsel to defend Alberta programs in the countervailing duty investigation. No Alberta programs were found to provide countervailable subsidies.

Aircraft Convention

In August 2004, the Ministry was requested to lead Alberta's involvement with the federal government on the *Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment as Applied to Aircraft Equipment*. Following a review of the convention, the Minister outlined Alberta's concerns in a letter sent to the Government of Canada in December. Following consultations with industry and affected government departments, a Bill to implement the convention was developed and introduced into the Legislature during the spring 2006 session. The Bill will come into force on proclamation to allow for consistent implementation of the convention across Canada.

UNESCO Draft International Convention on Cultural Diversity

In 2004, member countries of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) began negotiating an International Convention on Cultural Diversity. During the reporting year, the Ministry continued to coordinate the provincial review of this draft convention, corresponding with the federal government in May and November. The Ministry noted Alberta's support for cultural diversity, but noted the province's continued concern with the potential effect of the convention on Canada's existing international trade policy commitments and on areas of provincial jurisdictional responsibility. In January 2006, Alberta received formal written assurances from the federal government regarding the scope of the convention.

Research Studies

The Ministry contracted with the Western Centre for Economic Research at the University of Alberta to conduct a number of research studies on trade policy issues. These studies on Western Canadian export performance under free trade agreements and the effect of NAFTA tariff reduction harmonization on Alberta provide quantitative and qualitative information used to develop Alberta's priorities for trade negotiations and initiatives.

British Columbia-Alberta *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* (TILMA)

Following the direction of the joint Alberta and B.C. Cabinet in March of 2005, Alberta and B.C. continued negotiations towards a comprehensive *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* (TILMA) based upon the 2004 internal trade framework agreement. When completed, the TILMA will open new opportunities in the trade of goods and services between the two provinces, and will also open new investment opportunities and improve labour mobility. The agreement is a significant improvement upon the national *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT) in terms of trade liberalization. Both Alberta and B.C. support using it as a model in the work to improve the AIT. Negotiations were concluded in April 2006, at which time the agreement was signed at the joint Alberta-B.C. Cabinet meeting.

Council of the Federation Internal Trade Workplan Initiatives

Premiers at the February 2004 Council of the Federation (COF) meeting approved a workplan to improve the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT). Alberta continues to lead the energy chapter negotiations, and is working with B.C. to address gaps in the AIT's coverage. The COF approved an internal trade workplan progress report in August 2005. Additionally, the Ministry prepared a proposal on enforcement mechanisms that will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade.

Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) Meeting

In June 2005, a ministerial meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) was held. The Ministry ensured that Alberta's priorities, including the removal of local hiring restrictions in federal public service hiring practices, were identified and presented at the meeting. Ministers approved additional changes to the AIT's procurement chapter, further work to explore the harmonization of standards, and changes to how business subsidies are addressed under the AIT.

Alberta put forward recommendations to ensure that the scope and coverage of the Energy Chapter will focus on market access provisions for all energy goods and services. These recommendations were accepted by the CIT. Alberta and B.C. also received the committee's approval to review the AIT's general rules and sector-specific chapters in order to provide recommendations to broaden and streamline the AIT. The CIT also approved recommendations for improving the AIT's dispute settlement mechanism, including Alberta's proposals for a default mechanism for appointing panellists and a provision for reconvening the original panel to determine if a party has fully complied with its recommendations.

Alberta participated in a number of disputes concerning the internal trade practices of other jurisdictions in Canada.

- Edible Oils

  In May 2004, the province started formal dispute procedures against the Ontario *Edible Oils Products Act*. This legislation protects Ontario's provincial dairy industry by prohibiting the sale in Ontario of a number of imitation dairy products, some of which are produced in Alberta. The AIT panel report was released in November 2004. The panel fully supported the Alberta position and determined that Ontario was not meeting its AIT obligations. Ontario repealed its *Edible Oils Products Act* in January 2005, but immediately introduced similar measures through amendments to its *Milk Act*. The Minister wrote to his Ontario counterpart in October 2005 to encourage full compliance with the AIT panel's report. As Ontario has not yet fully complied, the Ministry, in conjunction with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, is considering all options available to address this ongoing problem.

- Coloured Margarine

  In July 2004, Alberta initiated formal AIT dispute procedures against Quebec's ban on the sale of margarine coloured the same pale yellow hue as butter. This restriction has caused economic injury for Alberta canola producers and processors and butter-coloured margarine producers. A dispute resolution panel was convened to hear this issue in May of 2005. The panel found that Quebec's regulation restricting the sale of butter-coloured margarine was in contravention of its AIT obligations and recommended that the regulation be repealed. To date Quebec has not complied with the panel's recommendation and therefore the Ministry, in conjunction with Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, is considering all options available to Alberta.

- Public Service Commission Hiring Practices

  Alberta continued to express its concern over the federal Public Service Commission's use of geographic hiring criteria, a practice that prevents qualified candidates from applying for federal jobs solely on the basis of their geographic location. This matter was raised by Alberta at the most recent meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade, where Alberta's position received support from almost all jurisdictions. The Ministry, in collaboration with Human Resources and Employment as well as B.C., entered into consultations with the federal government on this issue in May of 2005. While a mutually satisfactory conclusion was not reached through consultations, the federal government has announced a program that will see the Public Service Commission use a national area of selection in the Ottawa region starting April 1, 2006, for all officer-level jobs. The federal government intends to expand the national area of selection to all officer-level jobs across Canada on April 1, 2007, following an impact assessment, and to all federal government job categories in December 2007, following a second impact assessment. Alberta will monitor the results of this plan and advocate for the Public Service Commission's hiring practices to become fully AIT compliant sooner than scheduled.

PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:
Successfully Participating in International Negotiations to Advance Alberta's Interests with Important Trading Partners

The Ministry promotes Alberta's interests and priorities in international trade negotiations to which Canada is a party. Currently the most significant is the "Doha Development Agenda" round of trade liberalization negotiations, taking place under the World Trade Organization (WTO). These negotiations provide the opportunity to reduce barriers to Alberta's worldwide exports of agricultural and non-agricultural goods and services, and to reduce the impact of defensive trade remedy actions taken by other countries against Canada (such as U.S. actions against softwood lumber).

In 2005-06, the federal Minister of International Trade hosted a federal/provincial/territorial meeting to discuss Canada's approaches to the WTO Ministerial Conference, which the Alberta Minister attended. The Minister also attended the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China as a part of the official Canadian delegation. These events allowed Alberta to press our key priorities in these negotiations directly with federal ministers and negotiators.

The Ministry's efforts to ensure that Alberta's WTO interests are addressed are identified below. More information on these and other initiatives can be found in Ministry annual reports, available at:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca.

2002-03

November 2002
Alberta forwarded its views on trade remedy and market access reform in the WTO to the federal government.

January 2003
Alberta forwarded its position on Canada's initial WTO services offer to the federal government.

2003-04

September 2003
Minister attended the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico.

November 2003
Alberta forwarded its positions on WTO negotiations to the federal government.

2004-05

July 2004
Minister forwarded Alberta's interests in WTO negotiations in advance of the release of the "July Package."

2005-06

May 2005
Minister forwarded Alberta's interests in the WTO negotiations to the federal minister.

July 2005
Minister forwarded Alberta's interests in the WTO agriculture negotiations in a joint letter with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

November 2005
Minister participated in a federal/provincial/territorial meeting in preparation for the WTO Ministerial Conference and, separately, forwarded Alberta's views on key WTO issues and priorities for Alberta.

December 2005
Minister attended WTO Honk Kong Ministerial Conference.

PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Building Upon and Enhancing the Benefits from the Agreement On Internal Trade with Like-minded Canadian Jurisdictions

The Ministry also pursues its trade and investment liberalization goals domestically, working to reduce trade barriers within Canada. The primary vehicle through which these efforts are made is the *Agreement on Internal Trade* (AIT).

The Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations works with other Canadian ministers responsible for internal trade through meetings of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) and, more recently, through the provincial/territorial Council of the Federation (COF). The Ministry also consults with provincial stakeholders in internal trade promotion and expansion. Alberta is prepared to work bilaterally or regionally to improve trade and investment opportunities, as evidenced by the *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* Alberta entered into with British Columbia. The Ministry also defends Alberta's AIT interests and manages its involvement in disputes.

In 2005-06 under the direction of the COF, efforts focused on completing the provincial/territorial work plan to improve the operation of the AIT. Additional detail regarding domestic trade initiatives identified below can be found in corresponding Ministry annual reports at:

- http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca.

2002-03

June 2002
Minister co-chaired the Committee on Internal Trade meeting. Agreement reached on investment incentives and government procurement.

November 2002
Minister forwarded a proposal to B.C. on a bilateral trade enhancement agreement dealing with energy.

2003-04

October 2003
Alberta-B.C. Protocol of Cooperation signed; the provinces agree to work on a bilateral trade enhancement agreement.

November 2003
Alberta requested a dispute resolution panel on federal cost of credit provisions.

January 2004
Minister attended a Council of the Federation meeting on the AIT. Alberta proposed to improve the AIT and was designated lead jurisdiction for new negotiations.

2004-05

May 2004
Alberta and B.C. signed a Framework Agreement for the negotiation of bilateral trade enhancement. Alberta requested a dispute resolution panel on Ontario's *Edible Oil Products Act*.

June 2004
Panel ruled in Alberta's favour on discriminatory federal cost of credit provisions.

July 2004
Council of the Federation accepted the AIT work plan. Alberta requested a dispute resolution panel on Quebec's ban on coloured margarine sales.

November 2004
Panel ruled in Alberta's favour on the Ontario *Edible Oil Products Act*.

December 2004
Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) meeting held. Agreement reached on coverage of Crown corporations.

2005-06

May 2005
Alberta and B.C. began consultations with Canada over the federal Public Service Commission's use of geographic criteria in its hiring practices.

June 2005
Committee on Internal Trade meeting held. Panel ruled in Alberta's favour in challenge of Quebec margarine colouring regulation.

September 2005
Consultations with Canada over the federal Public Service Commission's hiring practices ended without a mutually satisfactory solution.

March 2006
Negotiations concluded on a comprehensive bilateral *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* with B.C., the results of which were presented for adoption at the April 2006 Alberta-B.C. joint Cabinet meeting.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR GOAL 3

The Ministry has two performance measures for Goal 3 for 2005-06. The Client Satisfaction measure is intended to assess client satisfaction with services provided by the Trade Policy section. Narrative records and reports major trade policy meetings describe further progress to Business Plan Goal 3.

3.a Client Satisfaction

A key element of the Ministry's success is the quality of relationships built with clients and partners, including other Alberta government ministries, other Canadian provincial and territorial governments, and the private sector. To help advance Alberta's interests, these relationships must be developed and fostered over the long term. The Ministry's biennial client satisfaction survey is a key instrument for assessing the quality and effectiveness of these relationships. The last survey was conducted in January 2005. The next survey will be conducted in January 2007.

Clients are asked to rate service performance on a five-point scale, ranging from 1=very dissatisfied to 5=very satisfied.

The Ministry's target in 2005, and again in 2007, is to achieve a high satisfaction rating of 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale from the Ministry's key clients. In 2005, the Ministry exceeded its target with a 4.3 client satisfaction rating for services provided by Trade Policy.

Client satisfaction ratings are shown below, relating to each of the Ministry's goals (referred to as Program or Service Areas in the survey). Results for all areas polled in the 2005 client satisfaction survey are detailed in Appendix 1. Comparisons to previous years' results are also shown.

Results:

Goal 3: Client satisfaction with services provided by Trade Policy

4.4	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.0

Data Source: 2005 Ipsos client satisfaction survey results

The Ministry finds the semi-annual client survey useful in evaluating the satisfaction of key clients, both within the Alberta government and outside of the Alberta government. While very positive results are evident throughout each of the six surveys, there are minor variations that generate internal review. Staff makes use of the information and feedback to consider their interaction with clients for the future.

3.b Narrative Records for Trade Policy

The Ministry documents its performance on key initiatives in support of Goal 3 through publicly released reports or communiqués issued at the conclusion of major trade policy meetings. These reports assess how the province achieved its objectives.

Publicly available status reports of meeting outcomes allow the public to track complex, long term issues. The mode of preparation for each report varies, and is explained with each example identified, but is generally prepared by the Ministry in consultation with others.

The Ministry met its target of reporting 100 per cent of reports/narrative records from major trade policy meetings.

Listed below are narrative records identified for Goal 3:

WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting (December 13 – 18, 2005)

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Ministries of International and Intergovernmental Relations, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Development jointly issued a news release summarizing its outcome. Ministers recognized the modest progress that had been made, which included a commitment to end agricultural export subsidies by 2013 and to engage in sectoral negotiations on industrial goods. Countries also agreed to work towards further commitments in agriculture, non-agricultural market access, and services by April 2006. Alberta's Ministers attended the Hong Kong Conference to ensure that Alberta's priorities were reflected in Canada's approach to the negotiations.

The news release can be obtained from the Ministry, or on the following website:

- http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200512/19215449DE2D2-E676-E2E1-186EBAC5A3CD9F00.html

Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee of Ministers on Internal Trade (Quebec City, Quebec, June 6, 2005)

At this meeting, ministers renewed their commitment for federal/provincial/territorial cooperation on internal trade. They agreed to continue discussions on the energy chapter, approved the terms of an in-depth review of the AIT's dispute settlement procedures, and directed officials to prepare a report on the harmonization of regulations and standards for consideration at their next meeting.

The news release can be obtained from the Ministry, or the website:

- http://www.ait-aci.ca/index_en/news.htm

Progress of Complaints and Disputes Under the Agreement on Internal Trade

Since the inception of the Agreement on Internal Trade in 1995, a "Record of Complaints and Disputes Involving Alberta" demonstrating the progress of complaints and disputes under the agreement, is posted on the Ministry website at:

- www.iir.gov.ab.ca/trade_policy/interprovincial_dispute_resolution.asp

As of March 2006, there were six active complaints by Albertans against procurement, labour mobility, investment and other practices of other provinces and the federal government; no complaints against Alberta have been recorded.

CONTENTS

Auditor's Report	56
Statement of Operations	57
Statement of Financial Position	58
Statement of Cash Flows	59
Notes to the Financial Statements	60
Schedules to the Financial Statements	65

1. Expenses - Directly Incurred, Detailed by Object
2. Comparison of Expenses - Directly Incurred, EIP and Capital Investment and Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget
3. Salary and Benefits Disclosure
4. Related Party Transactions
5. Allocated Costs

AUDITOR GENERAL
Alberta

Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Ministry's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Fred J. Dunn FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
May 19, 2006

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands)

	2006 Budget	2006 Actual	2005 Actual
Revenues			
Other Revenue	$ -	$ 66	$ 7
Expenses - Directly Incurred (Note 2b and Schedule 5)			
Voted (Schedules 1 and 2)			
International and Intergovernmental Relations	10,054	9,891	8,172
Statutory (Schedules 1 and 2)			
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Vacation Pay	-	85	91
	10,054	9,976	8,263
Net Operating Results	$ (10,054)	$ (9,910)	$ (8,256)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31, 2006

	(in thousands)	
	2006	2005
ASSETS		
Cash	$ 121	$ 61
Accounts Receivable (Note 3)	10	1
Advances (Note 4)	-	4
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 5)	112	127
	$ 243	$ 193
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities (Note 6)	$ 1,273	$ 2,050
NET LIABILITIES		
Net Liabilities at Beginning of Year	(1,857)	(779)
Net Operating Results	(9,910)	(8,256)
Net Transfer from General Revenues	10,737	7,178
Net Liabilities at End of Year	(1,030)	(1,857)
	$ 243	$ 193

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended March 31, 2006

	(in thousands)	
	2006	**2005**
Operating Transactions:		
Net operating results	$ (9,910)	$ (8,256)
Non-cash items:		
Amortization	15	1
Valuation adjustments	85	91
	(9,810)	(8,164)
(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(9)	(1)
Decrease in Advances	4	3
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(862)	1,173
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(10,677)	(6,989)
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	-	(128)
Financing Transactions:		
Net Transfer from General Revenues	10,737	7,178
Increase in Cash	60	61
Cash, Beginning of Year	61	-
Cash, End of Year	$ 121	$ 61

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended March 31, 2006

1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act, Chapter G-10, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.*

The purpose of the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations is to lead in the development of government-wide strategies and policies for Alberta's relations with international governments and organizations; and federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

The recommendations of the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants are the primary source for the disclosed basis of accounting. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies that have been established by government for all ministries.

(a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations for which the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations is accountable. The Ministry Annual Report provides a more comprehensive accounting of the financial position and results of the Ministry's operations for which the Minister is accountable.

All departments of the Government of Alberta operate within the General Revenue Fund (the Fund). The Fund is administered by the Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of departments are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by departments are paid from the Fund. Net transfer (to) from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Ministry has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the Government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets.
- pension costs which comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year.
- valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay, guarantees and indemnities.
- grants are recognized when authorized and eligibility criteria are met.

Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other entities in support of the Ministry operations are disclosed in Schedule 5.

Assets

Financial assets of the Ministry are limited to financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees and other individuals. The fair values of the cash and accounts receivable are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short term nature of these instruments. Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

Assets acquired by right are not included. Tangible capital assets of the Ministry are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is $100,000 and the threshold for all other tangible capital assets is $5,000.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recorded to the extent that they represent present obligations as a result of events and transactions occurring prior to the end of the fiscal year. The fair value of accounts payable and accrued liabilities is estimated to approximate their carrying value because of the short term nature of these instruments.

Net Liabilities

Net liabilities represent the difference between the carrying value of assets held by the Ministry and its liabilities.

3 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable are unsecured and non-interest bearing.

4 ADVANCES

Advances represent amounts provided to Ministry employees for travel expenses and are non-interest bearing and recoverable on demand.

NOTE 5

TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

(in thousands)

	Estimated Useful Life	2006 Cost	2006 Accumulated Amortization	2006 Net Book Value	2005 Net Book Value
Equipment [a]	10 years	$ 108	$ 11	$ 97	$ 108
Computer hardware and software	5 years	20	5	15	19
		$ 128	$ 16	$ 112	$ 127

[a] Equipment includes office equipment and furniture.

NOTE 6

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

(in thousands)

	2006	2005
Accounts Payable	$ 120	$ 591
Accrued Liabilities:		
Manpower	375	313
Supplies and Services	184	254
Grants	-	355
Vacation Pay	585	500
Other	9	37
	$ 1,273	$ 2,050

7 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

(in thousands)

As of March 31, 2006, the Ministry has the following contractual obligations:

	Service Contracts
2007	$ 154

8 PAYMENTS UNDER AGREEMENT

(in thousands)

The Ministry entered into agreements for sponsorship contributions and accepted registration fees to assist in the funding of various conferences and special events. Funding was received from industry stakeholders and international associations to support conferences and special events that related to the negotiation and discussion around intergovernmental agreements and sharing our knowledge regarding international relations. Costs incurred under these agreements are made by the department under authority of the *Financial Administration Act*, Section 25.

Amounts paid and payable under agreements with program sponsors are as follows:

	2006	2005
Western Premiers' Conference	$ 33	$ -
Council of the Federation Meetings	375	-
International Financial Institutions Bootcamp	110	-
	$ 518	$ -

9 DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

(in thousands)

The Ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans, Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Ministry also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $541 for the year ended March 31, 2006 ($405 - $402).

At December 31, 2005, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $165,895 ($268,101) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $187,704 ($450,068). At December 31, 2005, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a surplus of $10,018 ($9,404).

The Ministry also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2006, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial deficiency of $8,699 ($11,817) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of $8,309 ($3,208). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

10 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 2005 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2006 presentation.

11 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister.

SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule 1

Expenses - Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

Year ended March 31, 2006

(in thousands)

	2006 Budget	2006 Actual	2005 Actual
Voted:			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	$ 5,115	$ 6,053	$ 5,038
Supplies and Services	4,872	3,835	2,815
Supplies and Services from Support Service Arrangements with Related Parties [a]	57	65	55
Grants	-	39	362
Financial Transactions and Other	-	128	83
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	10	15	1
Total Voted Expenses before Recoveries	10,054	10,135	8,354
Less: Recovery from Support Service Arrangements with Related Parties [b]	-	(244)	(182)
	$ 10,054	$ 9,891	$ 8,172
Statutory:			
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Vacation Pay	$ -	$ 85	$ 91

[a] The Ministry receives financial reporting and human resource services from the Ministry of Education.

[b] The Ministry provides financial, information technology and administrative services to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule 2

Comparison of Expenses - Directly Incurred, EIP and Capital Investment and Statutory Expenses by Element to Authorized Budget

Year Ended March 31, 2006

(in thousands)

	2005-06 Authorized Budget	2005-06 Actual [a]	Unexpended (Over Expended)
Voted EXP/EIP and Capital Investment:			
International and Intergovernmental Relations			
1.0.1 Minister's Office	$ 350	$ 350	$ -
1.0.2 Corporate Services			
-Operating Expense	1,888	2,001	(113)
-EIP	25	-	25
1.0.3 Canadian Intergovernmental Relations	3,356	2,899	457
1.0.4 International Relations	1,887	2,184	(297)
1.0.5 Trade Policy	1,193	1,347	(154)
1.0.6 Washington, D.C. Office	1,380	1,110	270
	$ 10,079	$ 9,891	$ 188
Operating Expense	$ 10,054	$ 9,891	$ 163
Equipment/Inventory Purchases	25	-	25
	$ 10,079	$ 9,891	$ 188
Statutory Expenses:			
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Vacation Pay	$ -	$ 85	$ (85)

[a] Includes achievement bonus amounting to $345.

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule 3

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Year ended March 31, 2006

	2006				2005
	Base Salary	Other Cash Benefits	Other Non-cash Benefits	Total	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)		
Deputy Minister (4)	$ 189,225	$ 36,000	$ 40,202	$ 265,427	$ 219,109
Minister - Counsellor (Alberta) (4)(5)	240,351	46,000	6,231	292,582	69,894
Executives					
Assistant Deputy Minister - International Relations	148,576	28,584	33,464	210,624	185,292
Assistant Deputy Minister - Canadian Intergovernmental Relations	146,470	29,683	32,498	208,651	180,548
Alberta Trade Representative	126,692	14,979	27,997	169,668	163,760
Executive Director - Corporate Services (6)	101,821	13,558	24,389	139,768	121,283

Total salary and benefits relating to a position are disclosed.

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include bonuses, vacation payouts, overtime, and lump sum payments.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include government's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, professional membership and tuition fees.

(4) Automobile provided, no dollar amount included in other non-cash benefits.

(5) Position was filled January 1, 2005.

(6) The incumbent's services are shared equally with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, which contributes its own share of the cost of salary and benefits. Full salary and benefits are disclosed in this Schedule.

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule 4

Related Party Transactions

Year Ended March 31, 2006

(in thousands)

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on the modified equity basis in the Province of Alberta's financial statements. Related parties also include management in the Ministry.

The Ministry and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for permits, licenses and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this Schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties recorded on the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

	2006	2005
Expenses - Directly Incurred:		
Supplies and services provided by other ministries	$ 496	$ 501

The above transactions do not include support service arrangement transactions disclosed in Schedule 1.

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not recorded in the financial statements but are disclosed in Schedule 5.

	2006	2005
Expenses - Incurred by Others:		
Accommodation	$ 988	$ 727
Legal	66	11
Other	7	5
	$ 1,061	$ 743

Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations

SCHEDULE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule 5

Allocated Costs

Year ended March 31, 2006

	(in thousands)	
	2006	2005
International and Intergovernmental Relations		
Expenses Directly Incurred [1]	$ 9,891	$ 8,172
Expenses Incurred by Others		
Accommodation Costs	988	727
Legal Services	66	11
Others	7	5
	10,952	8,915
Valuation Adjustments		
Vacation Pay	85	91
Total Expenses	$ 11,037	$ 9,006

[1] Expenses - Directly Incurred as per Statement of Operations, excluding valuation adjustments.

APPENDIX 1: 2005 IIR Client Satisfaction Survey Results

Client Satisfaction Survey Results & Methodology

Objective

The objective of the Ministry is to keep the client satisfaction survey precise and succinct. The 2005 survey differed from the 2003 survey in that the survey was administered over the Internet. As a result, a question was added about the efficacy of the Internet survey process. The 2003 survey differed from the 2001 survey in that it did not include questions asked about Aboriginal relations. The government at that time had created a separate Ministry, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (as of March 2001). Questions related to intergovernmental relations remained part of the 2003 survey to facilitate comparison between the results of previous surveys.

Given the scope of the survey and the demands it places on respondents, surveys are conducted every two years. The 2005 survey is the sixth such survey conducted since this performance measure was initiated in 1995.

To ensure useful and credible data, the Ministry follows these principles when conducting the survey:

- Surveys are conducted by a third party with the anonymity of respondents guaranteed.
- Selection of surveyed clients is inclusive (known critics are included).
- Questions are probing and related to Ministry goals and strategies.
- Survey results are used internally to improve business practices.

Target

The Ministry's target is to achieve a high satisfaction rating of 4.0 out of a 5.0 scale from the Ministry's key clients.

Methodology

The Ministry retained a consultant to coordinate the 2005 survey. The survey and mailing list were put together by the consultant with input from Ministry staff. The consultant directly contacted potential respondents through electronic mail or follow-up telephone call to seek responses.

A total of 342 clients were contacted by electronic mail on January 6, 2005, with a request to complete the survey by January 24, 2005. Of those notified, 281 were internal clients (provincial government) and 61 were external clients (non-government). Seventeen clients indicated they did not use the Ministry's services, resulting in an adjusted client base of 325.

Completed surveys were accepted up to and including January 26, 2005. By that date, 197 surveys had been received for an overall response rate of 61% (the 2003 response rate was 53% and the 2001 response rate was 54%).

The survey aims to collect feedback on client satisfaction in three areas described below. For each area, respondents are asked to rate service performance on a five-point scale, ranging from 1=very dissatisfied to 5=very satisfied.

1. Ministry Services

Clients are asked a series of questions about their satisfaction in four services areas: advancing Alberta's interests, coordination, strategic advice, and information. Responses to questions result in ratings on overall client satisfaction with these services.

2. Ministry Program Areas

Respondents are asked about their satisfaction with each of the three program areas of the Ministry (Canadian Intergovernmental Relations; International Relations; Trade Policy). This question was first added in 1999. Responses to questions result in ratings on overall client satisfaction with these program areas.

3. Overall Client Satisfaction

Respondents are asked a series of questions to assess their overall satisfaction with staff effectiveness and accessibility. Responses to questions result in ratings on overall client satisfaction of staff effectiveness/accessibility.

SURVEY RESULTS

(Source: 2005 Equus client satisfaction survey results)

Advancing Alberta's Interests

"Satisfaction ratings were consistent with results from 2003. Overall, clients are very satisfied with services in this area. The improvement of client satisfaction achieved in 2003 has been maintained and consistently improved since 1995."

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Provides leadership in advancing Alberta's interests with other governments	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.4
Develops strategies to deal with other governments	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.3
Negotiates agreements	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3
Develops policies where no other government agency has overall/lead responsibility	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.3
Manages trade disputes/complaints in the interests of Albertans and Alberta business			4.2	4.0	4.4	4.4

Coordination

"Overall satisfaction with this service area remains consistent compared to 2003."

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Organizes meetings, conferences, special events	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4
Organizes incoming international visits/missions	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.5
Coordinates/chairs policy working groups, inter-department committees	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.3
Implements agreements, policies, protocols and Memorandums of Understanding, including trade agreements	3.8	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.4	4.3

Strategic Advice

"Overall, Ministry clients indicated they are very satisfied with the "Strategic Advice" services provided. The high level of satisfaction is consistent with 2003 results, which showed the highest average client satisfaction results since the Ministry instituted the client survey."

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Provides strategic advice	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.3
Interprets external events	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2
Interprets major agreements	3.9	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.4	4.3

Information

"Overall, Ministry clients indicated they are "very satisfied" with the services in this area, maintaining the same high levels of client satisfaction reported in 2003."

	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Reviews strategic information from outside Alberta/ other governments	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.2
Develops briefing materials that summarize and analyze issues	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.3
Responds to requests for general information and analysis	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.4
Provides up-to-date information on its web site	-	-	-	3.9	4.3	4.2

Program Areas

"The level of satisfaction with the three principle program areas continues to be high and has consistently been so since the collection of satisfaction data began with the client survey in 1999."

	1999	2001	2003	2005
International Relations	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.5
Trade Policy	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.3
Canadian Intergovernmental Relations	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.2

Customer Satisfaction Measures

"Overall, clients were satisfied or very satisfied with access to and quality of services provided by the Ministry. This response has been consistent since these measures were introduced into the client satisfaction survey in 1999."

	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005
Staff were accessible	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4
Advice contributed to objectives being met	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.2
Information and briefing notes were concise, accurate, useful, timely	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
Preparation for meetings/conferences was effective	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2
Emerging issues were anticipated	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9
Staff contribution enhanced effectiveness of interdepartmental teams		4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2
Staff played a key role in Alberta cross-government initiative(s)		3.9	4.2	4.0	4.1

Using an On-Line Survey Process

"Overall, respondents 'strongly agreed' the website was easy to access, straightforward to complete, timely and efficient. They also agreed the on-line support provided was timely, courteous and addressed their needs and concerns. The on-line survey process was recommended for similar, future projects."

	2005
I was able to access the website easily	4.4
I was able to log on to the website easily (with my username and password)	4.5
The on-line responses were straightforward to complete	4.3
The on-line process was a timely and efficient method to provide my evaluation	4.4
On-line support personnel were friendly and courteous	4.0
On-line support personnel responded in a timely manner	4.1
On-line support personnel were able to deal with my concerns	4.0
I would recommend using this on-line process for similar future projects	4.4

APPENDIX 2: 2005-06 Inventory of International and Intergovernmental Agreements

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
03/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians-Métis Settlements General Council "Memorandum of Understanding between the Métis Settlements General Council, Canada and Alberta"	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
16/06/2005	Alberta-Canada: Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada "Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Land Exchange"	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development -and- Community Development
27/09/2005	Alberta-State of Jalisco, Mexico "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Alberta as Represented by the Minister of Advanced Education and the Secretariat for Education, Government of the State of Jalisco—Mexico"	Advanced Education
13/04/2005	Alberta-Bermuda: National Training Board "Revenue Contract"	Advanced Education
18/04/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-British Columbia Institute of Technology "Cost Sharing Agreement: Orthotics and Prosthetics Program: BCIT"	Advanced Education
17/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada "Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment"	Advanced Education
01/06/2005	Alberta-Bermuda: National Training Board "Revenue Contract"	Advanced Education
08/07/2005	Alberta-Saskatchewan: Ministry of Learning "International Qualifications Assessment Service Agreement"	Advanced Education
11/07/2005	Alberta-Bermuda: National Training Board "Revenue Contract"	Advanced Education
10/01/2006	Alberta-New Brunswick: Training and Employment Development "Individual Learning Modules: License Agreement"	Advanced Education
27/02/2006	Alberta-Canada: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada "Canada-Alberta Agreement for the Disclosure by Canada to Alberta of Information from the Canada Student Loans Program"	Advanced Education
20/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada "Raising Awareness About Planning for Post-Secondary Studies"	Advanced Education
01/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Canadian Wheat Board "Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Wheat Board and Agricultural Financial Services Corporation 2005/06 Crop Year"	Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
26/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Agreement for Access to Personal Information for Research of Statistical Purposes"	Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
01/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment Canada" Weather Services Agreement"	Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
22/08/2005	Alberta-Oaxaca, Mexico "Bilateral Agreement between the State of Oaxaca and the Province of Alberta"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
22/08/2005	Alberta-Oaxaca, Mexico-Nuevo Leon, Mexico- Tlaxcala, Mexico-New Mexico, USA "Tri-Nacional Agricultural Accord Desarrolla Rural"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
11/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Letter of Understanding on Developing Mung Bean and Black Gram; Phase II in the Commercialization of Two New Pulses for Alberta"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development

APPENDIX 2

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
17/06/2005	Alberta-Canada: Canadian Dairy Commission "Canadian Dairy Commission Direct Access Fund Agreement"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
28/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Collateral Agreement for the Canadian Food and Quality Program – Food Safety Initiative Under the Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
13/02/2006	Alberta-Canada: Rural Secretariat "Memorandum of Understanding Between Government of Canada Rural Secretariat and Government of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
20/10/2005	Alberta-China: Heilongjiang Department of Science and Technology "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Value-Added Agriculture Processing, Product Development, Packaging, and Marketing"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
31/03/2006	Alberta-China: The Agriculture Committee of Heilongjiang Province "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Food Safety, Research and Regulation Development"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
22/08/2005	Alberta-Mexico: State of Oaxaca "Bilateral Agreement Between the State of Oaxaca and the Province of Alberta"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
18/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Collateral Agreement for the Canadian Agricultural Skills Services Under the Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
28/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Collateral Agreement for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Quality Program – Food Safety Initiative Under the Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
31/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Public Works and Government Services Canada "Contract re: Composting for Bio-Containment and Safe Disposal of Infectious Animal Carcasses and Manure"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
01/07/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada "Research Agreement to Advance Agri-Food Safety Research and Technology Transfer of Benefit to Alberta and Canada"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
30/11/2005	Alberta-Newfoundland and Labrador-PEI-Nova Scotia-New Brunswick-Quebec-Ontario-Manitoba-Saskatchewan-British Columbia-Canada: Canadian Dairy Commission "Agreement for the Entry of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador into the National Milk Marketing Plan and the Comprehensive Agreement on Pooling of Milk Revenues"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
21/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Collateral Agreement Renewal Under the Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement: Amending Agreement No. 1"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
31/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement: Amending Agreement No. 5"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
26/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement: Amending Agreement No. 6"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
20/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement: Amending Agreement No. 7"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
21/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Collateral Agreement for Renewal Under the Canada-Alberta Implementation Agreement: Amending Agreement No. 1"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
29/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canada-Alberta Framework Agreement on the National Water Supply Expansion Program: Amending Agreement No. 1"	Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
11/07/2005	Alberta-Northwest Territories: Department of Justice-Jane Fagnan "Secondment Agreement between The Department of Justice of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Justice of Alberta, and Jane Fagnan"	Alberta Justice

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
02/09/2005	Alberta-Northwest Territories: Department of Justice-Jane Fagnan "Secondment Agreement between The Department of Justice of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Justice of Alberta, and Jane Fagnan"	Alberta Justice
10/11/2005	Alberta-Northwest Territories: Department of Justice-Anita St. Georges "Secondment Agreement between The Department of Justice of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Justice of Alberta, and Anita St. Georges"	Alberta Justice
02/09/2005	Alberta-Northwest Territories: Department of Justice-Anita St. Georges "Secondment Agreement between The Department of Justice of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Justice of Alberta, and Anita St. Georges"	Alberta Justice
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Justice and Attorney General of Canada "Project Funding Agreement for the Child-Centred Family Justice Fund"	Alberta Justice
15/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Justice and Attorney General of Canada "Digital Video Transcription Project Funding Agreement"	Alberta Justice
06/02/2006	Alberta-China: Heilongjiang Province "Evaluation of Heilongjiang Coal Properties in China"	Alberta Research Council
19/04/2005	Alberta-China: Tsinghau University "Letter of Intent to Establish Cooperation Providing Industries with Technical/Commercial Services to Promote Trade and Growth between Canada and China"	Alberta Research Council
26/09/2005	Alberta-India: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons "MOU to Establish a Non-Exclusive Cooperation to Provide Direction and Coordination of Research between ARC, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation, and Indian Oil Corporation"	Alberta Research Council
22/12/2005	Alberta-India: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons "Master Services Agreement for ARC to Provide Services to DGH Hereunder via Work Orders Which Outline Specific Projects"	Alberta Research Council
13/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Public Works and Government Services "Canadian General Standards Board Certification Program – Laboratory Facilities and Testing FY 2005-2007 – LAP-011-1-1"	Alberta Research Council
05/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada "Dr. Jian Zhang Industrial Research Fellowship"	Alberta Research Council
12/01/2006	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Ontario Workshop on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Geological Storage"	Alberta Research Council
06/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – Energy Research and Development "CO2 Injection and Hydrate Formation"	Alberta Research Council
06/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Enhanced Coalbed Methane Monitoring"	Alberta Research Council
09/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Carbon and Hydrogen Isotope Systematics of Biogenic Coalbed Methane Production	Alberta Research Council
09/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Efficiency and Alternative Energy Program Contribution Agreement"	Alberta Research Council
09/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Integrated Economic Model"	Alberta Research Council
09/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Permeability Changes in Coals During Production and Injection"	Alberta Research Council
09/08/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment Canada "Improved Emissions Measurement and Leak Detection Technologies Using the DIAL Technology at an Edmonton Refinery"	Alberta Research Council
06/12/2005	Alberta-Canada: Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET) "Carbonate Mineral Solubility a 5MPa"	Alberta Research Council

APPENDIX 2

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
17/01/2006	Alberta-Canada: Industry Canada "Canadian Pipeline Industry Study (Contract 5016739)"	Alberta Research Council
22/08/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Energy Board "Investigation of Terasen Pipeline Movement"	Alberta Research Council
08/06/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment Canada "Water sample Analysis for KA511-05-0315"	Alberta Research Council
21/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Health Canada "Analysis of the Border Air Quality Strategy Teflon Filters for Elemental Content Using ICP-MS"	Alberta Research Council
28/02/2006	Alberta-Canada: Department of National Defence "Fuel Analysis for Department of National Defence"	Alberta Research Council
29/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET) "Supplying Petroleum Analysis Services to CANMET in Devon"	Alberta Research Council
05/12/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre "Analytical Testing and Improved Methods for Biodiesel"	Alberta Research Council
30/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Industry Canada "Bio-Refinery Study – Industry Canada 5016025"	Alberta Research Council
06/01/2006	Alberta-Canada: Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET) "Devulcanization Process Evaluation"	Alberta Research Council
08/02/2006	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre-Devon "Letter of Support – Staff Assignment for 2005-2006 Program at National Centre for Upgrading Technology"	Alberta Research Council
28/09/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada – CANMET Energy Technology Centre-Devon "CO2 Fuel Gas Injection for Methane Displacement and Pressure Maintenance in Gas Over Bituman Reservoirs"	Alberta Research Council
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Research Council "Support for the Local Area Network for Years 2005-2006"	Alberta Research Council
22/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Research Council "Providing Technical Computer Support to the Industrial Research Program in the Calgary Facility"	Alberta Research Council
01/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Argi-Food Canada "Improving Water Quality Through Well Rehabilitation Service Agreement"	Alberta Research Council
05/12/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment Canada "Northern Ecosystem Initiative Project – Social/ Economic and Integrated Landscape Modelling Components"	Alberta Research Council
17/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada "Management Strategies to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change"	Alberta Research Council
25/07/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Marker-Assisted Breeding for Fusarium Wilt Resistance in Canola 2005F087R"	Alberta Research Council
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Research Council "Industrial Research Assistant Program Network Member Contribution Agreement"	Alberta Research Council
11/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy "Long Term Energy and Climate Change Strategy: Background Research on Carbon Sequestration Technologies Statement of Work"	Alberta Research Council
11/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Analysis of Red Deer County Manure Samples"	Alberta Research Council
16/10/2005	Alberta-Canada: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada-Little Red River Cree Nation "Little Red River Cree Nation & Family Services Corporation/Canada/Alberta 2005 Consolidated Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Agreement"	Children's Services
01/07/2005	Alberta-Canada: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada- Siksika Family Services Corporation "Siksika Family Services Corporation/Canada/Alberta Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Master Agreement"	Children's Services

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada-Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council "Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council/Canada/Alberta Consolidated Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act"	Children's Services
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada-North Peace Tribal Council "The North Peace Tribal Council/Canada/Alberta Consolidated Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Agreement"	Children's Services
01/04/2005	Alberta-The Farmers' Advocate of Alberta "Agencies, Boards and Commissions Memorandum of Understanding Between the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and The Farmers' Advocate of Alberta"	Children's Services
07/07/2005	Alberta-Canada: Social Development Canada "Moving Forward on Early Learning and Child Care: Agreement-in-Principle between the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta"	Children's Services
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Statistics Canada "Federal-Provincial Agreement to Contract with Statistics Canada to Conduct a Study on the Economic Impact of Culture on the Provinces in Canada"	Community Development
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Canadian Heritage "Canada-Alberta Agreement on French Language Services 2005/2006-2008/2009"	Community Development
04/07/2005	Alberta-Japan "Agreement for Volunteer Exchange between The Prefecture of Hokkaido and The Province of Alberta (Wild Rose Foundation)"	Community Development
01/04/2005	Alberta- Korea "Agreement for a Friendship Sport Exchange Between the Provinces of Alberta and Gangwon"	Community Development
01/04/2005	Alberta-Japan "Agreement for a Friendship Sport Exchange Between the Provinces of Alberta and Hokkaido"	Community Development
08/04/2005	Alberta-Canada "The Canadian Museum of Nature, The Montreal Science Centre and The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology Joint Production of Ice Age Mammals/Mammiferes venus du froid"	Community Development
21/03/2006	Alberta-North Dakota "Memorandum of Agreement for the Exchange of Fossil Specimens"	Community Development
17/10/2005	Alberta-Japan "Memorandum of Understanding of Friendly Museums between the Royal Alberta Museum and the Historical Museum of Hokkaido"	Community Development
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada "Contribution Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology Museums Assistance Program - Ice Age Mammals/Mammiferes venus du froid"	Community Development
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Parks Canada "Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Certification Service Function for the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund (CHPIF)"	Community Development
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment "Amendment to the Historic Places Initiative Class Contribution Program Contribution Agreement"	Community Development
28/09/2005	Alberta-Smithsonian Institution "Alberta's Participation at the 2006 Annual Folklife Festival"	Community Development
31/03/2006	Alberta-Smithsonian Folkways Recording "Northern Lights Wild Rose Subvention"	Community Development
15/12/2005	Alberta-Smithsonian Associates "To create and produce a series of 7 programs plus the costs to cover all speaker/artists' fees, travel and accommodations"	Community Development
31/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Canadian Heritage "Agreement on French Language Services 2005/2006 – 2008/2009"	Community Development

APPENDIX 2

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
15/03/2006	Alberta-Ontario-British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Manitoba-New Brunswick "Job Fairs 2006–Memorandum of Agreement"	Economic Development
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: International Trade Canada, Western Economic Diversification, and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada "Memorandum of Understanding on Canada-Alberta Cooperation on International Business Development"	Economic Development -and- Innovation and Science -and- Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development
31/08/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Ontario-Canadian Tourism Commission "Letter of Agreement Concerning Japanese Consumer Travel Trade Study"	Economic Development
31/08/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Ontario-Canadian Tourism Commission "Letter of Agreement Concerning China Consumer and Travel Trade Study"	Economic Development
17/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Business Link Business Service Centre "Alberta-TBL Funding Agreement"	Economic Development -and- Infrastructure and Transportation
01/09/2005	Alberta-Northwest Territories "Supply Diploma Examinations in Education, Culture, and Employment to the Government of the Northwest Territories"	Education
01/09/2005	Alberta-Northwest Territories "Supply Achievement Tests to Education, Culture, and Employment to the Government of the Northwest Territories"	Education
01/01/2006	Alberta-Nunavut "Supply Diploma Examinations to the Government of Nunavut"	Education
03/06/2005	Alberta-Spain: Instituto Cervantes "Language Learning Initiative"	Education
14/02/2006	Alberta-Spain: Ministry of Education and Science "Collaboration to Encourage and Enhance Language Programming in Alberta Schools"	Education
14/02/2006	Alberta-Spain: Ministry of Education and Science "Program of Cooperation for the Establishment of International Spanish Academies"	Education
01/04/2005	Alberta-Yukon "Audit Services Agreement"	Energy
11/01/2006	Alberta-Canada: National Energy Board "Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Security of Alberta Critical Facilities"	Energy and Utilities Board
13/01/2006	Alberta-Canada: Department of Fisheries and Oceans "MOU Between Alberta Environment and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans"	Environment
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment Canada "Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Cost-Sharing Agreement on Water Quality Surveys"	Environment
17/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: Environment Canada "Canada-Alberta Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation"	Environment -and- International and Intergovernmental Relations
15/07/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Water Research Institute "Memorandum of Agreement Concerning Streamflow Shifts Resulting from Glacier Fluctuations in the Basin of the Rocky Mountains"	Environment
1/08/2005	Alberta-Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada "Memorandum of Agreement Concerning Hybrid Poplars"	Environment
13/01/2006	Alberta-Canada: Fisheries and Oceans "Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Effects of Endocrine Disrupting Compounds in the South Saskatchewan River Basin"	Environment

APPENDIX 2

EFFECTIVE DATE (DD/MM/YY)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT / AGENCY
17/10/2005	Alberta-Wyoming, USA "Reciprocal Agreement on Exchange of Information between the Province of Alberta as Represented by the Minister of Finance ("Alberta Finance") and the Wyoming Department of Transportation"	Finance
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Canada Revenue Agency "Memorandum of Understanding on the Administration of the Alberta 2005 Resource Rebate"	Finance
17/10/2005	Alberta-Wyoming: Department of Transportation "Reciprocal Agreement on Exchange of Information Between The Province of Alberta as represented by The Minister of Finance and the Wyoming Department of Transportation"	Finance
24/02/2006	Alberta-Ontario: Department of Health and Long Term Care "Data Sharing Agreement Between Alberta Health and Wellness and Ontario Health and Long Term Care"	Health and Wellness
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Health Canada "Amending Agreement: FNIHB Telehealth Services"	Health and Wellness
01/04/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Manitoba-Northwest Territories-Yukon-Nunavut "WHICH Interprovincial Amending Agreement"	Health and Wellness
27/03/2006	Alberta: British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Manitoba-Northwest Territories-Yukon-Nunavut "WHICH License Agreement"	Health and Wellness
01/04/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Manitoba "MOU on Provider Registry Maintenance and Support Amending Agreement"	Health and Wellness
28/04/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Manitoba "Provider Registry Development and Enhancement: 2nd Amending Agreement"	Health and Wellness
01/ /4/2005	Alberta-Canada: Health Canada "Aboriginal Engagement Agreement"	Health and Wellness
20/06/2005	Alberta-Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada "MOU with FNIHB for TB Services to On-Reserve First Nations"	Health and Wellness
05/04/2005	Alberta-Manitoba-Prince Edwards Island-New Brunswick-Nova Scotia-Nunavut Newfoundland and Labrador-Northwest Territories-Yukon-Canada: Health Canada & Public Works and Government Services Canada "Supply of Vaccine for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella"	Health and Wellness
05/04/2005	Alberta-Manitoba-Prince Edwards Island-New Brunswick-Nova Scotia-Nunavut Newfoundland and Labrador-Northwest Territories-Yukon Canada: Health Canada & Public Works and Government Services Canada "Supply of Vaccine for Varicella"	Health and Wellness
01/09/2005	Alberta-Ontario-British Columbia-University of Guelph-Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada "Intelligent System Analyses of S. Typhimurium"	Health and Wellness
01/02/2006	Alberta-Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada-Capital Health Region "Enhanced Surveillance of Canadian Street Youth (Edmonton)"	Health and Wellness
25/11/2005	Alberta-Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada-Calgary Health Region "Enhanced Surveillance of Canadian Street Youth (Calgary)"	Health and Wellness
06/03/2006	Alberta-Prince Edward Island "Healthy Eating and Active Living for 1 to 5 year olds: Copyright Agreement"	Health and Wellness
13/03/2006	Alberta-British Columbia "NPS Alberta-British Columbia Data Sharing Agreement"	Health and Wellness
01/10/2005	Alberta-Saskatchewan "Bone Mineral Density Prior Approval"	Health and Wellness
28/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Human Resources and Social Development "Amendment to the Canada-Alberta Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities"	Human Resources and Employment
30/05/2006	Alberta-Canada: Public Works and Government Services Canada "Lease Agreement: Provincial Building, Medicine Hat Alberta"	Infrastructure and Transportation

APPENDIX 2

EFFECTIVE DATE (DD/MM/YY)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
01/09/2005	Alberta-Ukraine: Ministry of Transportation and Communications "Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation of Alberta, and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of Ukraine"	Infrastructure and Transportation
09/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: National Research Council of Canada "Second Supplementary Sublease Agreement for the 'Alberta Research Council Building' University Research Park Calgary, Alberta"	Infrastructure and Transportation -and- Alberta Research Council
16/05/2005	Alberta-Gangwon, Korea: Department of Industry and Economy "Letter of Intent on Research and Development Cooperation between the Ministry of Innovation and Science of the Province of Alberta, Canada, and the Department of Industry and Economy of the Province of Gangwon, Korea"	Innovation and Science
19/10/2005	Alberta-Heilongjiang, China "Agreement to Establish the Alberta-Heilongjiang, HIT Research Innovation Centre"	Innovation and Science
15/04/2005	Alberta- China: Shandong Provincial Economic Development and Trade Committee "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Shandong Provincial Economic Development and Trade Committee, China, the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations of the Government of the Province of Alberta, Canada, Tsinghua University of the People's Republic of China, and the University of Alberta School of Business, Alberta, Canada"	International and Intergovernmental Relations
30/08/2005	Alberta-Ukraine "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Government of the Province of Alberta and the Lviv Oblast State Administration, Ukraine"	International and Intergovernmental Relations
30/08/2005	Alberta-China: Province of Heilongjiang "Protocol of Reaffirmation of Understanding and Friendship between the Province of Alberta, Canada, and the Province of Heilongjiang, People's Republic of China"	International and Intergovernmental Relations
29/09/2005	Alberta-South Africa: Province of Mpumalanga "Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa, and the Province of Alberta, Canada"	International and Intergovernmental Relations
06/10/2005	Alberta-India: Indian Institute of Public Administration "Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Institute of Public Administration, India, and the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations of the Government of Alberta, Canada"	International and Intergovernmental Relations
17/10/2005	Alberta-Japan: Prefecture of Hokkaido "25th Anniversary Proclamation of Reaffirmation of Friendship and Affiliation between the Province of Alberta, Canada, and the Prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan"	International and Intergovernmental Relations
31/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: National Research Council "The Alberta Building Code Agreement"	Municipal Affairs -and- Education
15/05/2005	Alberta-Canada: Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities "Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues Under the New Deal for Cities and Communities"	Municipal Affairs -and- Infrastructure and Transportation -and- International and Intergovernmental Relations
23/06/2005	Alberta-Manitoba "A Partnership Agreement for Government of Alberta's Inactive Records Information System (IRIS)"	Restructuring and Government Efficiency

EFFECTIVE DATE (D/M/Y)	PARTIES/TITLE	DEPARTMENT/ AGENCY
15/08/2005	Alberta-Canada: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation "Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement: Phase II"	Seniors and Community Supports
16/02/2006	Alberta-Canada: Solicitor General of Canada "Lesser Slave Lake Regional Police Service – Tripartite Agreement Extension"	Solicitor General
16/02/2006	Alberta-Canada-Blood Tribe "Blood Tribe Police Service Agreement"	Solicitor General
16/02/2006	Alberta-Canada-Tsuu T'ina Nation "Tsuu T'ina Nation Police Service Agreement"	Solicitor General
16/02/2006	Alberta-Canada-North Peace Tribal Council "North Peace Tribal Police Service Agreement"	Solicitor General
01/09/2005	Alberta-Canada-Louis Bull Tribe "Louis Bull Tribe Police Service Agreement – Amendment"	Solicitor General
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada, "Supplement Agreement to the Exchange of Services Agreement"	Solicitor General
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada "Aboriginal Community Constable Program (ACCP)"	Solicitor General
01/01/2006	Alberta-Canada-Ermineskin Tribe, Montana First Nation, Samson Cree Nation "Community Tri-Partite Agreement (CTA) for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) First Nations Community Policing Service (FNCPS)"	Solicitor General
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada-Stoney Nakoda First Nation "Community Tri-Partite Agreement (CTA) for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) First Nations Community Policing Service (FNCPS)"	Solicitor General
14/11/2005	Alberta-Canada "Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement Respecting Federal Contributions to Youth Justice Services and Programs"	Solicitor General
25/07/2005	Alberta-British Columbia "Electronic Monitoring Pilot Project Agreement"	Solicitor General
07/11/2005	Alberta-Ontario-Queen's Printer for Ontario, "Medical and Related Guidelines for Recruitment of Police Officers"	Solicitor General
01/02/2006	Alberta-Ontario-Queen's Printer for Ontario "Medical and Related Guidelines for Recruitment of Police Officers"	Solicitor General
01/04/2005	Alberta-Canada: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada "Agreement between Canada and Alberta for Forest Protection on Indian Reserves"	Sustainable Resource Development
21/03/2006	Alberta-Canada-British Columbia-Manitoba-New Brunswick-Newfoundland and Labrador-Northwest Territories-Nova Scotia-Nunavut-Ontario-Prince Edward Island-Quebec-Saskatchewan-Yukon "Canadian Council of Forest Ministers International Forestry Partnership Program Specified Purpose Account Agreement 2006-2010"	Sustainable Resource Development
19/10/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Canada: Natural Resources Canada "Letter of Agreement Between Alberta, British Columbia, and Canada"	Sustainable Resource Development
09/03/2006	Alberta-Canada: Natural Resources Canada "Letter of Agreement Between Alberta and Canada"	Sustainable Resource Development
04/10/2005	Alberta-British Columbia-Saskatchewan-Manitoba-Ontario-Quebec-Nova Scotia-New Brunswick-Prince Edward Island-Newfoundland and Labrador-Yukon-Northwest Territories-Nunavut-Canada "Canadian Wildland Fire Strategy Declaration"	Sustainable Resource Development

APPENDIX 3: Alphabetical List of Entities' Financial Statements in Ministry 2005-06 Annual Reports

ENTITIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

MINISTRY, DEPARTMENT, FUND OR AGENCY	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Access to the Future Fund[1]	Advanced Education
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation	Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission	Health and Wellness
Alberta Capital Finance Authority	Finance
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board	Energy
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	Community Development
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission	Gaming
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Endowment Fund	Finance
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	Finance
Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund	Finance
Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund	Finance
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation	Community Development
Alberta Insurance Council	Finance
Alberta Local Authorities Pension Plan Corporation[2]	Finance
Alberta Pensions Administration Corporation	Finance
Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission	Energy
Alberta Research Council Inc.	Innovation and Science
Alberta Risk Management Fund	Finance
Alberta School Foundation Fund	Education
Alberta Science and Research Authority	Innovation and Science
Alberta Securities Commission	Finance
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	Seniors and Community Supports
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation	Community Development
Alberta Treasury Branches	Finance
ATB Investment Management Inc.	Finance
ATB Investment Services Inc.	Finance
ATB Services Inc.	Finance
Child and Family Services Authorities:	Children's Services
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority	
Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
East Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority	
North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Northeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority	
Metis Settlements Child and Family Services Authority	

[1] Established July 10, 2005.
[2] Incorporated December 16, 2005.

APPENDIX 3

MINISTRY, DEPARTMENT, FUND OR AGENCY	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation	Finance
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Department of Advanced Education	Advanced Education
Department of Children's Services	Children's Services
Department of Community Development	Community Development
Department of Education	Education
Department of Energy	Energy
Department of Finance	Finance
Department of Gaming	Gaming
Department of Health and Wellness	Health and Wellness
Department of Innovation and Science	Innovation and Science
Department of Seniors and Community Supports	Seniors and Community Supports
Department of Solicitor General and Public Security	Solicitor General and Public Security
Department of Sustainable Resource Development	Sustainable Resource Development
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund	Sustainable Resource Development
Gainers Inc.	Finance
Government House Foundation	Community Development
Historic Resources Fund	Community Development
Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund	Community Development
iCORE Inc.	Innovation and Science
Lottery Fund	Gaming
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development[5]	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Ministry of Advanced Education	Advanced Education
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Ministry of Children's Services	Children's Services
Ministry of Community Development	Community Development
Ministry of Economic Development[5]	Economic Development
Ministry of Education	Education
Ministry of Energy	Energy
Ministry of Environment[5]	Environment
Ministry of Executive Council[5]	Executive Council
Ministry of Finance	Finance
Ministry of Gaming	Gaming
Ministry of Government Services[5]	Government Services
Ministry of Health and Wellness	Health and Wellness
Ministry of Human Resources and Employment[5]	Human Resources and Employment
Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation[5]	Infrastructure and Transportation
Ministry of Innovation and Science	Innovation and Science
Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations[5]	International and Intergovernmental Relations
Ministry of Justice[5]	Justice
Ministry of Municipal Affairs[5]	Municipal Affairs
Ministry of Restructuring and Government Efficiency[5]	Restructuring and Government Efficiency

[5] Ministry includes only the departments so separate departmental financial statements are not necessary.

APPENDIX 3

MINISTRY, DEPARTMENT, FUND OR AGENCY	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Ministry of Seniors and Community Supports	Seniors and Community Supports
Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Security	Solicitor General and Public Security
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development	Sustainable Resource Development
N.A. Properties (1994) Ltd.	Finance
Natural Resources Conservation Board	Sustainable Resource Development
Persons with Developmental Disabilities Community Boards: Calgary Region Community Board Central Region Community Board Edmonton Region Community Board Northeast Region Community Board Northwest Region Community Board South Region Community Board	Children's Services
Persons with Developmental Disabilities Provincial Board	Seniors and Community Supports
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Reserve Fund	Finance
Safety Codes Council	Municipal Affairs
Supplementary Retirement Plan Reserve Fund	Finance
Victims of Crime Fund	Solicitor General and Public Security
Wild Rose Foundation	Community Development

ENTITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

FUND OR AGENCY	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Alberta Foundation for Health Research	Innovation and Science
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research	Innovation and Science
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research	Innovation and Science
Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board	Education
Improvement Districts' Trust Account	Municipal Affairs
Local Authorities Pension Plan	Finance
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Bargaining Unit	Human Resources and Employment
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Management, Opted Out and Excluded	Human Resources and Employment
Management Employees Pension Plan	Finance
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Pension Plan	Finance
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers (Unregistered) Pension Plan	Finance
Public Service Management (Closed Membership) Pension Plan	Finance
Public Service Pension Plan	Finance
Special Areas Trust Account	Municipal Affairs
Special Forces Pension Plan	Finance
Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers	Finance
Workers' Compensation Board	Human Resources and Employment

APPENDIX 3

SCHOOL, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND HOSPITALS INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY ON A MODIFIED EQUITY BASIS[4]

SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOLS	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Almadina School Society	Education
Aspen View Regional Division No. 19	Education
Aurora School Ltd.	Education
Battle River Regional Division No. 31	Education
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18	Education
Boyle Street Education Centre	Education
Buffalo Trail Public Schools Regional Division No. 28	Education
Calgary Arts Academy Society	Education
Calgary Girls' School Society	Education
Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1	Education
Calgary School District No. 19	Education
Calgary Science School Society	Education
Canadian Rockies Regional Division No. 12	Education
CAPE-Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence Institute	Education
Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73	Education
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 3	Education
Clearview School Division No. 71	Education
East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools Regional Division No. 16	Education
East Central Francophone Education Region No. 3	Education
Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7	Education
Edmonton School District No. 7	Education
Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 41	Education
Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division No. 14	Education
Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2	Education
Foothills School Division No. 38	Education
Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 32	Education
Fort McMurray School District No. 2833	Education
Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52	Education
Foundations for the Future Charter Academy Charter School Society	Education
Golden Hills School Division No. 75	Education
Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 28	Education
Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357	Education
Grande Yellowhead Regional Division No. 35	Education
Grasslands Regional Division No. 6	Education
Greater North Central Francophone Education Region No. 2	Education
Greater Southern Public Francophone Education Region No. 4	Education
Greater Southern Separate Catholic Francophone Education Region No. 4	Education

4 The Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants has issued standards that require controlled entities to be fully consolidated line-by-line. In a transitional period to March 31, 2008, the Ministry is permitted to use the modified equity method of accounting. Under the modified equity method, the controlled entities' net assets and operating results would be included in one line on the Ministry's consolidated statements of financial position and operations, respectively. The Ministry has not yet included the financial statements of these controlled entities. In the transitional period, the government will assess when and how to include these controlled entities in the Ministry's consolidated financial statements. The financial results of these controlled entities are included in the consolidated financial statements of the Province of Alberta for the year ended March 31, 2006 on a modified equity basis.

APPENDIX 3

SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOLS	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division No. 29	Education
High Prairie School Division No. 48	Education
Holy Family Catholic Regional Division No. 37	Education
Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4	Education
Horizon School Division No. 67	Education
Lakeland Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 150	Education
Lethbridge School District No. 51	Education
Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42	Education
Livingstone Range School Division No. 68	Education
Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 20	Education
Medicine Hat School District No. 76	Education
Moberly Hall School Society	Education
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School Society	Education
New Horizons Charter School Society	Education
Northern Gateway Regional Division No. 10	Education
Northern Lights School Division No. 69	Education
Northland School Division No. 61	Education
Northwest Francophone Education Region No. 1	Education
Palliser Regional Division No. 26	Education
Parkland School Division No. 70	Education
Peace River School Division No. 10	Education
Peace Wapiti School Division No. 76	Education
Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7	Education
Prairie Land Regional Division No. 25	Education
Prairie Rose Regional Division No. 8	Education
Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39	Education
Red Deer School District No. 104	Education
Rocky View School Division No. 41	Education
St. Albert Protestant Separate School District No. 6	Education
St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1	Education
St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 38	Education
Sturgeon School Division No. 24	Education
Suzuki Charter School Society	Education
Westmount Charter School Society	Education
Westwind School Division No. 74	Education
Wetaskiwin Regional Division No. 11	Education
Wild Rose School Division No. 66	Education
Wolf Creek School Division No. 72	Education
Universities	
Athabasca University	Advanced Education
The University of Alberta	Advanced Education
The University of Calgary	Advanced Education
The University of Lethbridge	Advanced Education

SCHOOL BOARDS AND SCHOOLS	MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT
Colleges	
Alberta College of Art and Design	Advanced Education
Bow Valley College	Advanced Education
Grande Prairie Regional College	Advanced Education
Grant MacEwan College	Advanced Education
Keyano College	Advanced Education
Lakeland College	Advanced Education
Lethbridge Community College	Advanced Education
Medicine Hat College	Advanced Education
Mount Royal College	Advanced Education
NorQuest College	Advanced Education
Northern Lakes College	Advanced Education
Olds College	Advanced Education
Portage College	Advanced Education
Red Deer College	Advanced Education
Technical Institutes and The Banff Centre	
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	Advanced Education
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	Advanced Education
The Banff Centre for Continuing Education	Advanced Education
Regional Health Authorities and Other Health Institutions	
Alberta Cancer Board	Health and Wellness
Alberta Mental Health Board	Health and Wellness
Aspen Regional Health Authority	Health and Wellness
Calgary Health Region	Health and Wellness
Capital Health	Health and Wellness
Chinook Regional Health Authority	Health and Wellness
David Thompson Regional Health Authority	Health and Wellness
East Central Health	Health and Wellness
Northern Lights Regional Health Authority	Health and Wellness
Peace Country Health	Health and Wellness
Palliser Health Region	Health and Wellness

For additional copies of this annual report, or for further information about the Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations, please contact:

Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations
Communications Branch
10155 – 102 Street, N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4G8

Telephone: 780-422-1510
Facsimile: 780-423-6654
E-Mail: feedback@inter.gov.ab.ca

Or visit our website at: www.iir.gov.ab.ca

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